Friday, October 19, 2012 ★★ 11 sections / Vol. 27 / No. 313 P18 | Mobile Alerts: Text INQ DREAMERS to 4467 | www.inquirer.net | Twitter: @inquirerdotnet

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

THE EMPTY SEAT President Aquino (2nd row, 3rd from left) takes a break from the affairs of state by watching the US bands Kalapana and America perform at Smart Araneta Coliseum on Wednesday night. He had no date (note empty seat) but was accompanied by some members of his Cabinet and their spouses. Among them are Albert del Rosario, Cesar Purisima, Proceso Alcala, Dinky Soliman, Kim Henares and Cristina Higuiat. (Story below)

Obama courts Fil-Ams

House new RH bill targets foes' concerns

By Leila B. Salaverria

A WATERED-DOWN version of the reproductive health bill has been introduced to the plenary of the House of Representatives to address the concerns raised by opponents of the controversial measure.

The changes include giving priority to the post in the provision of birth control methods and banning contraceptives that prevent the implantation of a fertilized ovum, as this is considered abortion by some sectors.

Speaker Feliciano Belmonte Jr. said the new version was a "definite step forward" for the bill, which has met strong opposition in and out of

HOUSE A10

P-Noy urged to sign bill on 'desaparecidos' immediately

By Christine V. Esguerra and TJ Burgonio

LAWMAKERS and human rights watchdogs yesterday urged President Aquino to immediately sign a bill penalizing "enforced disappearances" to allow the government to go after those behind the abductions of activist Jonas Burgos, students Karen Empeño and Sherlyn Cadapan, and other people.

"Since the abductions of Jonas Burgos and other 'desaparecidos' continue to refuse to acknowledge the fate or whereabouts of their victims, they continue to commit the crime of

PNOY URGES / A10

CALUNGSOD IN ROME The image of Blessed Pedro Calungsod, borne by its custodian Fr. Charles Jayme, is shown to Cebu Archbishop Emeritus Ricardo Cardinal Vidal (foreground). The cardinal and a large delegation from Cebu are in Rome for the canonization ceremonies of the Visayan martyr at the Vatican on Sunday.

SIN TAX CONTRITION

Palace now amenable to ₱40B

By Christian V. Esguerra and TJ Burgonio

AFTER tangling with some senators, Cabinet officials have moved to bridge the big gap in projected revenue from the sin tax reform measure by offering a compromise amount: P40 billion.

Malacañang preferred a version that would generate P60 billion from taxes on tobacco and liquor, but was now amenable to lowering it to P40 billion, said presidential spokesperson Edwin Lacierda.

"They are willing to accept a

PALACE A6

Drilon gives power on Senate sin tax bill • Too much money for DOH worries Abad • 'We're not easy on SSS' / A8

US leader tasks group to review denied claims of war veterans

By Minda U. Rueda
AA Correspondent

LOS ANGELES—US President Barack Obama's administration yesterday created a working group to look into the plight of Filipino veterans whose claims for benefits from their World War II service have been denied.

The group will "ensure that all applications receive thorough and fair review," said presidential assistant Chris Lu, co-chair of the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

The White House announcement comes ahead of the Nov. 6 national elections in which experts say that Asian Americans—who voted overwhelmingly for Obama in 2008—could play a decisive role in close races.

More than 250,000 Filipinos fought for the United States during the war and were promised equal treatment as American veterans after the war.

But in 1946, the US Congress enacted the Rescission Act that

OBAMA A17

2.8 million Filipino-Americans / A17

Health dep't confirms PDI story on toxic taxis

By Philip C. Tubeza

A DEPARTMENT of Health (DOH) study has confirmed the findings of an Inquirer special report last year that warned against the health risks posed by improperly converted taxis that run on auto-liquefied petroleum gas (ALPG).

Eduardo Janairo, DOH National Capital Region director, said the study conducted with the University of the Philippines-National Poison Management and Control Center (UP-NPMCC) showed that the improper conversion of taxis could expose cabdrivers and

HEALTH A19

P-Noy, Corona: Chilling out with the enemy

By Pocholo Concepcion
Entertainment

THEY may have exchanged words of anger not too long ago, but on Wednesday night President Aquino and ousted Supreme Court Chief Justice Renato Corona were seen enjoying the concert of classic rock group America at Smart Araneta Coliseum.

Mr. Aquino and Corona did not exactly cross paths—the President was seated at the lower box section, while the former Chief Jus-

P-NOY, A17

Comelec hears out 'Kris hubby,' 25 other oddballs

By Philip C. Tubeza

'AREN'T YOU happy with Senator Lapid?'

Commissioners on Elections Chair Sixto Brillantes Jr. asked this yesterday while hammering one of 26 Senate hopefuls grilled by the Comelec en banc to determine if they were nuisance candidates or not.

From a self-proclaimed husband of popular TV host Kris Aquino to a war veteran's son who said he e-mailed US President Barack Obama to ask him to remove the Philippines, the would-be candidates each had their six minutes of fame before TV cameras as they presented their views and platforms before poll officials.

After nearly five hours of grilling, Brillantes said the elec-

COMELEC A19

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WHAT'S INSIDE

NEWS

Farmers' co-ops disown seized rice in Legazpi port / A20

PH in danger of being on money-laundering blacklist / A10

$100-M works of Picasso, Matisse, Monet art stolen from Dutch museum / A20

BUSINESS

Coco water export up 80% in 1st half of 2012 / B2-6

ENTERTAINMENT

Grace Senate run gets Lovi's support, whether she asks or not / 02

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONTPAGE

4D (2:00 p.m. draw)
2 27
8 1
28 3

SUERTRES-2P (2:00 p.m. draw)
5 0 7
1 9 3
8 4 7

6/58 LOTTO (Wednesday)
1 6 0 3 7 1

6/49 LUZ-VIS-MIN
5 11 12 21 22 28
P14,141,755.80

SUPER LOTTO 6/49
2 8 13 22 31 39
P24,855,710.40

LOTTO TIPS? Text LOTTO, send to 4467. P1.50/text

Army officers face court-martial

By Nikko Dizon

JUSTICE should be served, but the accused should not be dismissed from service.

This was the position of the military's lead prosecutor in the court-martial against two of the four army officials accused of negligence that led to the massacre of 19 Special Forces soldiers in Al-Barka, Basilan, exactly a year ago yesterday.

Maj. Gener Mahinnorsi III, military lead prosecutor known as the trial judge advocate, said Col. Alexander Macario, former Commander of Special Operations Task Force-Basilan Province and Col. Ferdinandito Undag, former Brigade Commander of Special Forces Regiment (Airborne), Special Operations Command, should not be dismissed from military service for their culpability in the deaths of the soldiers.

The bodies of the soldiers were mutilated when they were found in a camp of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF). Fourteen other soldiers were wounded.

Who's at fault?

Brig. Gen. Teodoro Cirilo Herrera, chief, civil reporting that the court-martial's "plea to find out who's at fault" in the Al-Barka incident.

HEADS bowed. Army officers (from left) Col. Aristandro S. Undag, Lt. Col. Leonardo I. Peña, Lt. Col. Orlando D. Edrain and Col. Alexander Macario face the court-martial at Fort Bonifacio. MARIO QUIROZ

Dismissal is the penalty for Article 96 or conduct unbecoming an officer and gentleman and Article 97 or disorders and neglects to the prejudice of good order and military discipline of the articles of War.

Maldonesos said the dismissal from service of Macario and Undag would add to the loss the Armed Forces had with the deaths of the 19 soldiers in Al-Barka.

"Personally, this representation does not believe that he (Undag) deserves to suffer the penalty of dismissal but we still expect justice to be served... My apologies, we cannot demand dismissal from service," Maldonesos said during the oral argument in the general court-martial hearing yesterday afternoon at the Philippine Army headquarters.

Also head captor

Undag has been credited for the capture of notorious Abu Sayyaf leader, Commander Robot in 2005.

The military prosecutor representative of the state argued before the court-martial during the separate oral arguments that Macario, the other accused, Lt. Col. Leonardo Peña, former Commanding Officer of the 4th Special Forces Battalion, and Lt. Col. Orlando Edrain, former Commanding Officer of Special Forces School, have yet to be present at the oral arguments.

The four accused military officers were charged violation of Article 96 and Article 97 of the Articles of War.

Failure to do during violation of Article 96 or willful or negligent loss, damage or wrongful disposition over synthesis in the West Philippine Sea.

Told that he meant to be closer to Pe than Trillanes, Enrile laughed, saying that was not discussed.

Journalist Ellen Tordesillas has identified Pe as the backchannel contact of Trillanes in conducting informal negotiations with the Chinese.

Experienced diplomat

"That's what Trillanes said... Only that I do not know whether Trillanes understood 'hoc' Enrile said, adding that Pe has a degree from the University of Kent in England, and that she was an experienced diplomat who rose from the ranks and had a wide knowledge of international politics.

Asked if he got the sense that the situation between the two countries have somehow normalized, Enrile replied, "You cannot say that."

"I mentioned about my statements in the newspapers. Well, I said you have a country to serve and I have a country to serve is nothing personal about those things which are matters of national and thinking and protecting our respective national interests," Enrile said.

Chinese exec tagged as link of Trillanes calls on Enrile

By Norman Bordadora

THE CHINESE official who reportedly had back-channel talks with Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV over the territorial dispute in the West Philippine Sea yesterday exchanged pleasantries with the latter's nemesis, Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile.

Chinese Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs Fu Ying visited Enrile yesterday afternoon.

She was accompanied by Chinese Ambassador Ma Boqing and Filipino foreign affairs officials, including department spokesperson Raul Hernandez.

"She just paid me a visit because she's my friend. She has been my friend since she was assigned here," Enrile said of Fu, Chinese ambassador to Manila from 1992 to 2000.

"She used to come to my office to talk to me about some problems here of China, especially when the senators were discussing the Paracel Islands Agreement with the United States," he added.

Enrile said they discussed Chinese history, Philippine economy and world politics.

He said there was no discussion about the two countries' dispute

PNOC firm's head hailed for anticorruption drive

By Jerry E. Esplanada

THE OFFICE of the President ordered Investment Corporation for Government-Owned and Controlled Corporations (GCC) has recommended the chair of the Philippine National Oil Company-Exploration Corp. (PNOC-EC) for going after alleged company wrongdoings in line with President Aquino's "closing ranks" and corruption-free drive.

In an Oct. 8 letter, the GCC chief Geraldine Lopez Jr., PNOC-EC chair, "for taking the lead in ensuring that within PNOC-EC, the principles of corporate governance are pursued in the most transparent, responsible and accountable manner, and placing senior officers of the company to account before the proper authorities of the responsibilities placed upon PNOC-EC officers under Republic Act No. 10149," or the GOCC Act.

Lopez, the GCC said, has complied with the "solemn duties and mandates of the PNOC-EC governing board in keeping with the President's 'closing ranks' policy to the effect that the company, its officers and employees are firmly on the straight path and giving emphasis to transparency in the company's financial transactions and operations."

The commendation was signed by Gene Villanueva, GCC chair, and Commissioners Ma. Angela Ignacio and Rainier Borbid.

On July 26, Lopez filed with the Ombudsman graft charges against three top PNOC EC officers for illegally overpricing by up to P3,000 percent the renovation of the firm's headquarters at Bonifacio Global City in Taguig City.

The former Manila mayor named the following as state respondents: Lourdes Celario, vice president for corporate services; Emmanuelo Sawila, chair of the bids and awards committee; and Ma. Rita Dapkig, manager of the human resources and administrative department.

Celario, Sawila and Dapkig were accused of violating Section 3 of Republic Act No. 3019, or the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act.

The 2010 PNOC-EC building renovation project, which had a budget of P55 million, showed an overprice ranging from 300 to 9,000 percent, Lopez said.

"Instead of implementing the three phase project and awarding it to a general contractor, Celario's team made piecemeal contracts for each and every aspect of the project," Lopez pointed out.

He said it was evident that the team could incurred by Celario's team were grossly overpriced.

Celario has dismissed the charges against her as "erroneous, baseless, unsubstantiated and malicious."

Law was properly observed

She claimed that "the procurement law was properly observed for all contracts which were awarded to the lowest technically complying bidder. All contracts passed through the bids and awards committee."

Last month, Lopez assailed some of his fellow top executives at PNOC EC for allegedly covering up anomalies in the energy firm, including coal deals amounting to P30 million that it entered into during the Arroyo administration.

In a Sept. 4 letter to Malacañang, he also reported an undisclosed number of dead-related documents were missing.

He recalled that when he first assumed his post, the filing cabinet of the PNOC-EC president only had nothing but blanket and curtains and no single file on record.

"To corral the enormous losses incurred by the company, I relieved the then head of the coal transactions, Jose Anthony Villanueva, and temporarily stopped all coal importation activities until a new policy was eventually formulated," he noted.

A PNOC-EC internal audit has revealed that PNOC EC lost over P1.26 million in just a single coal deal in 2009.

In an Oct. 9 letter to the PNOC-EC board of directors, Lopez said he directed that investigations be conducted after discovering suspicious activities in the company.

"One of these investigations that necessitated further action was the one headed by ex-Court of Appeals Justice Myrna Dial, an individual-related probe[d] for such assignments due to her long and storied career in the judiciary as a prosecutor, RTC judge, as well as CA Justice and her involvement and as a long time agent of the Bureau of Investigation."

According to Lopez, Dial's probe found irregularities in the PNOC-EC building renovation project, prompting him to have the case filed by his office's own legal department in the proper courts.

"But when I refused to follow my legal and [without] orders I was left no choice but to file the case in the proper court of jurisdiction in my personal capacity lest I myself be incriminated for acts not," he said.

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JONAS BROTHERS
Singing siblings (from left) Nick, Joe and Kevin Jonas pose for a photo during their press conference at the Makati Shangri-La Thursday on the eve of their two-night stand in the country. Kicking off the first leg of their "Jonas Brothers Live 2012" concert tour, the trio will perform at the Mall of Asia Arena tonight and at the Waterfront Hotel in Cebu tomorrow.

260 Pinays return from war-torn Syria

By Jonathan Hicap

MORE than 200 female migrant workers arrived in Manila yesterday morning after being repatriated from civil war-stricken Syria.

Foreign Undersecretary Rafael Seguis and Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (Owwa) chief Carmelita Dimzon met the 261 migrants at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

The women, mostly domestic workers, had been evacuated at the Philippine Embassy in the Syrian capital Damascus for months after running away from their employers.

They had been unable to leave Syria because they did not have exit permits from their employers, forcing several Syria to undocumented aliens.

Earlier last week, Syrian President Bashar al-Assad ordered the requirements and fees waived so that all migrant workers displaced by the embassy could depart.

The Switzerland-based International Organization for Migration chartered the Jordan mission flight that brought the migrants back to Manila.

Among the repatriated Filipinos was 24-year-old Normina Gul Bet (real name), a native of Cotabato City, whose right arm was in a cast. She said she was injured after she jumped off the top floor of her employers' house in Damascus to escape maltreatment.

"They easily get angry and beat me up every minute I make; no matter how slight I thought maybe it's because they were outnumbered on by the war," she said.

Normina said fellow Filipinos took her to a hospital then asked the Philippine Embassy to help her.

Normina said her employers lived in a Damascus neighborhood where they could hear gunfire and explosions every night.

"During daytime everything looks peaceful and normal, but you can see that the people are worried and there are food and money shortages. At night, you can't sleep because of the sounds of war," she said.

Planned escape

Mirna, 26, from General Santos City, said she worked for three years as a maid in the city of Hama, south of Damascus, where the fighting was intense.

She said she and other Filipino maids planned their escape sometime in March. Boss decided to meet up at a local hospital from where they asked the embassy for help.

"The shelling was intense, you're always afraid because your house might be the next one to be hit and get blown up," she said.

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Social networking linked to HIV rise

By Tina G. Santos

MANILA, social networking contributes to the rise in the cases of human immunodeficiency virus-acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV-AIDS) in the country, according to a study conducted by the Department of Health.

The mushrooming of social networking sites, which cater to people looking for sex partners, has been pinpointed as one of the major factors in the rise of HIV-AIDS cases in the Philippines, Dr. Eric Tayag, director of the National Epidemiology Center (NEC), a DOH research unit, said in a DOH-AIDS workshop.

Tayag's study that the Department of Health conducted last year. Tayag said online social networking sites are creating new opportunities, particularly for men having sex with men (MSM) to meet sex partners.

"Through online networking sites, MSM can meet without fear of negative social consequences," he said.

With the Internet increasing the ease of risky behavior, online social networking can soon be included as an evolving risk factor for HIV-AIDS, Tayag said.

Health authorities list the risky behaviors contributing to the rise of HIV-AIDS in the country as not using condoms, multiple sex partners, men having sex with men and injecting drug users.

The study covered 1,163 MSM respondents. Of the 1,163 respondents, 124 admitted to using online network sites for dating and sex, while 1,03 said they had sex with people they contacted through online network sites. Those who engaged in sex were between the ages of 14 to 56.

The study of HIV-AIDS transmission, as well as the profile of infected persons, has changed in several years from heterosexual intercourse to "men who have sex with men," Tayag said.

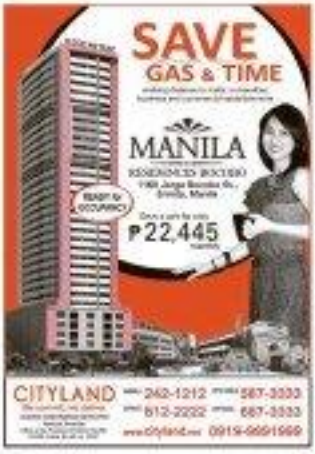
He clarified that men who engage in sex with men were not all homosexuals. "HIV-AIDS is not about being gay but about men having unprotected sex with men," Tayag said.

About 70 percent of the respondents or 140, claimed to have used condoms during sexual encounters but majority said they do not do it consistently.

"Not consistent use of condom is like a risk factor," said Tayag.

He said one of the reasons MSM gave for not using condoms during sexual encounters was condom unavailability.

"They told condoms were not available, some said they don't like to use them. Others claimed their partners won't allow them to use condoms or they think it's not necessary to use one. A small percentage said they do not know or they forgot to use condom," he said.



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Drilon given power on Senate sin tax bill

By Herman Bondadora

SHORTLY after agreed to let Sen. Franklin Drilon, acting chair of the Senate committee on ways and means, decide on how to proceed with the sin tax reform measure in the chamber.

Drilon has expressed an inclination to retain the committee report prepared by resigned chair Sen. Ralph Recto, and adjust it in amendments.

Finance officials have reportedly asked them their target increase in revenue from sin taxes from P60 billion to P90 billion.

Recto's report expects to generate P53 billion.

"The chair should have a free hand but there was an impression by many senators that it looks funny if they use the report when they need say [the] P30 billion," Recto told the House in a phone interview.

Recto suggested that the committee under the ground that just adopts the House version of the sin tax measure or the bill authored by Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago.

Santiago's version is said to be the closest to the administration's target of generating an additional P60 billion yearly from sin taxes.

Told that Drilon had expressed preference for adopting his report as a starting point for amendments, Recto said: "Only because it is well-written. Some of the members they may disagree with but there is a structure in place."

"We can make the report as 'Ulo' ang mo say report... But I'm saying if they want P60 billion, let them write a report that's 40 and I will sign it," Recto said.

Drilon, who is on an official trip to Canada, also said that he would consult other committee members on how to proceed despite his personal inclination.

Recto indicated that he would allow views on his position not to be the last word during the plenary debates. "It is my job. I'm elected as a senator not to keep quiet," Recto said.

He maintained that the administration targets wouldn't be achieved.

He said the provisions in his committee report that provided for lower excise taxes and a time period before there were collapsed have also been made.

Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile also suggested that a new committee report be drawn up using the House version or the Santiago bill as template.

NOTICE OF CHANGE OF CORPORATE NAME OF TANDUAY HOLDINGS, INC. TO LT GROUP, INC.

In compliance with the rules of the Philippine Stock Exchange under its Memorandum No. 418-2007 dated September 12, 2007, notice is hereby given that on September 28, 2012 the Securities and Exchange Commission approved the change of corporate name of Tanduay Holdings, Inc. to **LT GROUP, INC.**.

(Sgd.) **MA. CECILIA L. PESAYCO**
Corporate Secretary

Too much money for DOH worries Abad

By Jess G. Ros

HEALTH agencies may not be able to immediately absorb the additional revenue expected from the passage of the proposed sin tax bill, Budget Secretary Florencio Abad yesterday said.

In a forum on health financing, Abad said the Department of Health (DOH) was among the agencies that needed to have huge improvements in capacity and absorption.

"I'm not so much worried about the difference (in the amount of revenues). The more concerned about the ability of the Department of Health and PhilHealth to actually absorb (that huge amount)," Abad said.

The Aquino administration has proposed a version of the bill that would raise P60 billion in new collections.

The version of the House of Representatives seeks to generate P90 billion while a committee report that former Senate ways and means committee chair Ralph Recto presented would raise only P53 billion in additional revenue from sin products.

"The DOH has to streamline its operation. For example, PhilHealth's enrollment rate is still low, so they have to look at the processes and see where the bottlenecks are," Abad said.

Eduardo Banzon, PhilHealth chairman, assured the public that the agency was already implementing measures to help improve the capacity of health providers.

If the sin tax bill is passed, 85 percent of the expected revenue will be used for universal health's care coverage, while the remaining 15 percent will go to programs that will help tobacco farmers, Abad said.

In recent years, the government should have been able to cover the first 20 percent of poor households, which number about 3.2 million, Abad said.

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

Notice is hereby given that in the joint special meeting held on October 2, 2012, at which meeting, a majority of the Directors and the Stockholders representing at least two-thirds (2/3) of the outstanding capital stock were present in person or by proxy, the Board of Directors of TEMPLEWOOD HOLDINGS CORP. approved and the Stockholders owning more than two-thirds (2/3) of the issued and outstanding capital stock of the Corporation ratified the dissolution of the Corporation and the shortening of its life until October 31, 2012.

'We're not easy on SMC'

SENATE Minority Leader Juan Ponce Enrile yesterday acknowledged that the House version of the sin tax bill might be considered as favorable to liquor firms, but reminded critics that the measure was still up for scrutiny by the Senate.

"They say that we were easy on the liquor industry, yah, but they can compensate for it there," he said, referring to how Congress could increase the tax rates there if they wanted to. It's not final that is the final word."

Enrile made the remarks in response to Sen. Ralph Recto's criticism that the House version might have reflected the positions espoused by Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima and San Miguel Corp., maker of the popular San Miguel beer.

"If Drilon officially says that they had to compromise in the House, that's why they came at P90 billion. Remember they glorified," Recto told the Senate on Wednesday. "That's how it went and then they (Drilon) said to find a Purisima-San Miguel alliance? ... What does that entail? I don't know."

Recto resigned as chair of the Senate ways and means committee on Monday after drawing criticism that the committee report, which sought to generate an additional P53 billion a year from taxes on cigarettes and alcohol products, was influenced by Philippine Long Distance Telephone.

Mikhail Farolan, president of PLDT, denied that the company had influenced the committee report.

Enrile said the House committee was open to reconciling its version of the bill with the measure that the Senate would approve in the future.

"It's entirely reasonable to expect that they would have a bill. Their version would not be exactly the same. That's why there is a bicameral committee to reconcile them," he said.

Enrile also said the House was not necessarily rejecting Recto's version, that "we will classify this as the very start" in "not the stop the process in the Philippine senate," he said.

Malacañang cleared clear of Recto's insinuation of a "Purisima-San Miguel" alliance and hoped the issue would be resolved soon.

"Let me be clear. Secretary Purisima never interfered in [Internal Revenue Commissioner] Kim Henares' move to collect a sum totaling, So, the sums totaling the net deficiency tax assessment," Lacierda said.

Christine F. Fajardo

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From page A1

lower amount of P40 billion provided that the other objectives of the bill, such as the health and the RTD (World Trade Organization) issues are addressed," Lacierda said at a briefing, referring to the Cabinet officials. He has no details on the health and WTO issues.

Lacierda said Purisima reported that in a caucus on Wednesday night with the senators, Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima spokesperson Sen. Ralph Recto gave statements issued by Cabinet officials over his ways and means committee report on the bill.

"Just to be sure that I am not spinning this, I got word from Secretary Purisima and this is his text to me: 'Last night Cabinet by this time, apologized to Senator Recto for the misquotes and other statements that may be misinterpreted as unproductive.' That's what Secretary Purisima said," he said.

In the caucus, Purisima, Health Secretary Enrique Ona and Internal Revenue Commissioner Kim Henares indicated that the revenue shortfall would from P90 billion to P40 billion to have an impact on the population.

According to reports, an Oct. 2 Department of Finance document addressed to Recto showed a revised estimate of P41.9 billion in view of the original P90 billion.

The rates followed exchanges between Recto and government officials who expressed dissatisfaction with the report on Senate Bill No. 3249 by the committee on ways and means dragging the incremental revenue at P53 billion, way below the P90 billion.

Confident that the kinks would be ironed out in the caucus, President Aquino on Wednesday expressed optimism Congress would approve the measure ahead of the May 2013 elections.

Comparison of benefits

Lacierda compared the benefits of generating either P60 billion or P90 billion in additional revenue.

"The idea for P90 billion is that we're able to address the health care coverage in this number of years. We know if we're down by P30 billion the health care would extend a little bit; the coverage would maybe it cannot be longer than necessary," he said.

Ideally, a P60 billion revenue would be "a victory for the Filipino people," Lacierda added.

With a revised estimate of P40 billion, Lacierda expressed hope that this would make it easier for Congress to pass the measure.

"We hope it would, for as long as other Secretary Purisima said that the other issues such as the health and the WTO issues are addressed, I have no specifics on what those WTO issues are," he said.

3 PH sailors die as rescue boat sinks

MANILA—Three Filipino and two Chinese sailors died Thursday when a South Korean coast guard boat capsized after rescuing them from a sinking cargo ship, officials said reports said.

The boat overturned while carrying 25 crewmembers rescued from the 5,400-ton Malaysian registered Bulden freighter near the southernmost island of Jeju, a coast guard spokesperson said.

All the coast guard officers and 10 of the freighter's crew were rescued unhurt by another coast guard vessel involved in the operation, but the capsized tanker finished, the spokesperson said.

The freighter, with a total of 13 Chinese and six Filipino crew members, radioed for help after the ship—en route to Singapore—started taking on water.

"If we were coast guard boats involved in the operation, our command because of high waves," the spokesperson said, adding that the rescued sailors and coast guard officers were taken to a hospital in Jeju.

Three of the dead sailors were from the Philippines, and the two others from China, Yonhap news agency said, adding the freighter was.

Yonhap quoted Jeju coast guard chief Cho Jeon-Ho as saying, "The conditions were extremely bad and the freighter could have gone underwater at any moments. We had no other choice but to try to rescue as many sailors as we could."

AFP

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ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING AMENDMENT

PH faces dirty money blacklist

By Herman Bordadora

THE PHILIPPINES is in danger of being lumped with countries that are known havens for dirty money after the Senate failed to pass a bill proposing to increase the number of predicate crimes covered by the Anti-Money Laundering Act (AMLA), the bill's sponsor Sen. Teofisto Guingona III has warned.

The committee report on Senate Bill 3125, sponsored by Guingona and Sen. Sergio Osmeña, remained in the interpellation stage on Wednesday, the last session day before Congress went on mid-term recess.

Nine senators have served notice that they intend to question Guingona and Gatchalian concerning the amendments they are proposing to Republic Act 9160, or AMLA.

Being included in the blacklist would mean restrictive regulations in international transactions involving the Philippines, including those of overseas Filipino workers and Philippine businesses.

"In two days, the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) will decide whether or not one of here against the global fight against corruption and criminal money are enough," Guingona said on the Senate floor on Wednesday night when it became apparent the bill wouldn't pass.

"In two days we might fall into the black list, formally referred to as the list of Non-Cooperative Countries or Territories," he said.

Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile downplayed the prospect of severe sanctions from the FATF, the Paris-based intergovernmental watchdog body against money laundering.

"Blame not just (Senate)," he said, while also questioning the authority of the FATF to impose sanctions.

"Who gave them the idea that they can dictate on government who invested them with that power?" he said.

"This is a part of a conversation. This task force encouraged by not all the members of the committee but only a few," he said.

Enrile explained that some senators had reservations about the third amendment being proposed, that would increase the number of predicate crimes that should be covered by AMLA. A predicate offense is a public crime that, as a matter of logic or statutory provision, is an essential part of an offense.

"I respect the right of everyone to make a decision," he told reporters.

Among those who expressed the right to ask questions were Senators Aquilino Pimentel Jr., Panfilo Lacson, Loren Legarda, Angara Estrada, Alfredo Lim, Ferdinand Marcos, Jr., Ralph Recto, Manuel Villar and Alan Peter Cayetano.

The FATF is expected today to decide whether the Philippines would remain in its gray list or fall into its blacklist.

The Philippines entered on appeals a few months ago, moving up to the gray list from the dark gray list after Congress passed two of the three laws demanded by the FATF.

Guingona also asked the senators to recognize the seriousness of the country's anti-money laundering law and enact various offices in response to.

He noted that 130 days have passed since the bill was sponsored and has been on the plenary's agenda for 16 only 28 days. "But it sadly still remains on the floor today."

"We owe it to many others, who aspire to see this government effectively win in the fight against corruption and dirty money. We owe it to the senate in this duty," he said.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday - October 19, 2012
Holy Week in Ordinary Time
Feast: Isaiah, bishop & martyr of Antioch and companions / Week of the Cross

1st Reading: Eph 4:1-6

Be a doer of this who hears. Do not only deceive yourselves by false notions. Listen to the word and not merely to the hearers, for the peace of his glory.

Yes, in listening the word of truth, the Gospel that saves you, have believed in him.

And, as promised, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit, the first pledge of what we shall receive, unto the praise of his glorious grace.

Such a unanimous record had gathered that they crushed one another. Then, some spoke to his disciples in this way, "Because of the grace of the Pharisees which is happening. Nobody is covered that will not be uncovered, or hidden that will not be made known. Whatever you have said in the darkness will be heard in daylight, and what you have whispered in hidden places, will be proclaimed from the housetops.

"I tell you, my friends, do not fear those who can kill the body and after that can do no more. But I will tell you whom to fear. Fear the One who after killing you is able to throw you into hell. This one you must fear. I tell you, yes fear someone. Are not sparrows five sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them has been forgotten by God. Even the hairs of your head have been numbered. So do not fear; you are worth more than whole flocks of sparrows!"

Reflection

I was alone at the bedside of a dying man whose life has been beautiful. He began to talk about his life. He talked and talked unhesitatingly, as if wishing up his last time. At the end, he said, "I never did any harm to anyone in my life." I had known him most of my life, so I knew that what he was saying was the truth. Then he added, "But I never did much good either." It was a cool assessment, and on his face I saw a profound regret. Everything was hidden still he made clear," said Jesus. "Every hair on your head has been counted." So, we forget enough and enough to make us pray for us more than we dare to believe. God knows all our sins published now and will save us. Then, what is all the secret for?

Glossary: Contemporary Revelation: Inc., if Hebrew, from: (1) Chaos, Hebrew: בָּרָא (bara) (adj.) all, (2) בָּרָא (bara) and בָּרָא (bara) (adj.) all, (3) בָּרָא (bara) and בָּרָא (bara) (adj.) all, (4) בָּרָא (bara) and בָּרָא (bara) (adj.) all, (5) בָּרָא (bara) and בָּרָא (bara) (adj.) all, (6) בָּרָא (bara) and בָּרָא (bara) (adj.) all,

Binay seeks EU backing for peace deal

By Tara Quimpando

VICE President Jejomar Binay called on Europe Wednesday to "extend every possible support" to the Philippine government's efforts to finally bring peace to Mindanao following its framework agreement with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

Speaking before European business and development workers in Brussels, Binay urged the international community to continue backing peace efforts of the government and MILF as he revealed that the Philippines is also pursuing talks with the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP).

"It is only a thinker step that we hope that we, together with the rest of the international community, would not hesitate to extend every possible support to this initiative," said Binay in a speech at the European Development Days (EDD).

The vice president's statement on international development comes days after world leaders assembly.

In his remarks, Binay briefed his high-level audience on the framework agreement, calling it the first step in a long and determined journey to peace and progress."

"The establishment of a political entity known as 'Bangsamoro' will bring to a final and permanent close a conversation that has torn our country to shreds in terms of human and material costs, and hold hostage for so long the development process in a region so richly endowed with good weather, fertile soil, rich vegetation, a hard-working and enterprising people, and a wide variety of mineral resources," said Binay.

The European Union as a first and European nations symbolically have been closely following the progress of the Philippine negotiations with the MILF and lauded the preliminary deal when it was announced last week.

In his brief speech, a copy of which was sent to Manila reporters, Binay said the Bangsamoro framework is envisioned to "transform the nation's economic and socio-political and improve people's lives."

"We are not short on confidence and optimism and we are confident human development, the ones driving force and central motive. Out of our peace and reconciliation efforts with the various parties in armed conflict with the MILF has finally begun to bear fruit," Binay said.

Still, such progress in negotiations with the MILF Binay said the Philippines is optimistic about progress in negotiations with the CPP which also forsee ending one of the world's last few remaining communist rebellions.

Convicted tax cheat's arrest pressed

THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue (BIR) is pushing for the capture of Gloria G Kintanar, without success so far, on the country's first tax evader law from affirmed by the Supreme Court.

In a memo to the public, the BIR is requesting any concerned citizens for information that would lead to Kintanar's arrest.

The BIR had pursued the prosecution of Kintanar, for not paying P15 million in taxes on her income in connection to the closure of Evercrest Living Products.

Based on your documents provided by the BIR, the Court of Tax Appeals (CTA) issued a writ of execution for Kintanar's arrest as early as last July 23.

The writ was issued after the BIR filed a motion for the issuance after Kintanar was went missing earlier in July.

According to the BIR, Kintanar should have started her sentence on June 20 after the case due to appear in court but didn't, causing frustrations and delusions.

The conviction of the evidence was then overlooked for July 2, but Kintanar also did not appear but instead submitted another notarized medical certificate from a hospital in Olong, Cavite.

The BIR hailed Kintanar's conviction as a landmark case, particularly because the High Court upheld the CTA's "willful blindness" decision, which requires taxpayers to be responsible for their tax returns and that they could not just blame their accountants for fraudulent tax returns if that they sign and file with the BIR.

The BIR filed the criminal complaint against Kintanar at the Department of Justice in 2005 where the tax deficiency with interest and surcharge amounted to only P6.3 million.

The amount has ballooned to over P 10 million because of the court's rules included a 20-percent delinquency interest per year. Bonnaybel Benenge

The DOTC is inviting interested parties to participate in the **OPEN** and **TRANSPARENT** bidding process for the **P48-MILLION ROXAS AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT PROJECT** and the **P3.9-MILLION PCG DETACHMENTS BUENAVISTA AND JORDAN, GUIMARAS PROJECTS.**

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Pay right holiday pay, employers told

LABOR Secretary Rosalinda Baldoz yesterday reminded employers to strictly adhere to holiday pay rules and save labor standards for their workers for Eid al-Adha on Oct. 26, the All Saints' weekend on Nov. 1 and 2, and Bonifacio Day on Nov. 30.

Oct. 26 and Nov. 30 will be covered by pay rules for regular holidays, and Nov. 1 and 2 by rules for special nonworking days.

Muhaimeng has declared Oct. 26 a regular holiday throughout the nation to observe Eid al-Adha or the Feast of Sacrifice, one of the two greatest feasts of Islam.

Tina G. Santos

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

A distinct crime

IN 1977, Francisco Silipero disappeared. A newsman who had ingratiated himself into Ferdinand Marcos' inner circle, he was present at the creation of the murderous martial law regime. But sickened by what he had witnessed, he wrote a tell-all book, "The Conjugal Dictatorship," and lived in exile in the United States. For some reason, however, he accepted an invitation to return to the Philippines. He has never been seen since.

EDITORIAL

Three and a half decades since Silipero vanished in the Marcos gulag, it is still possible for his heirs and friends to discern official redress? A new bill, the conference-committee version of which was approved on Tuesday by both the Senate and the House of Representatives, suggests that the answer in the Silipero case and in hundreds or even thousands of similar forced disappearances during martial law and in the years to-we then, may be, could be, yes. The bill now awaits President Aquino's signature.

The Anti-Enforced Disappearance Bill defines a new distinct crime: "the arrest, detention, abduction or any other form of deprivation of liberty committed by agents of the state or by persons or groups of persons acting with authorization or support from the state, followed by a refusal to acknowledge the deprivation of liberty or by concealment of the fate or whereabouts of the disappeared."

It is a two-stage crime: a deprivation of liberty and then denial or concealment. It is committed by either agents of the state, or persons "acting with authorization or support from the state," or both.

For the many Filipinos disturbed by Senator President Juan Ponce Enrile's recent and much-publicized apologia for martial law, the bill's most powerful impact may be its provision on prescription: there is no statute of limitations on the crime if the "disappeared" remains missing. Thus, the perpetrators of Silipero's forced disappearance, if they are still alive, may still be haled to court.

For the many Filipinos disturbed by the high-profile and still unresolved disappearances of University of the Philippines students Karen Empeño and Sherlyn Cadapan in 2006 and activist Jonas Burgos in 2007, the bill's most compelling feature may be its provision on command responsibility. We have not yet read the reconciled version, but in the House bill, the provision is twice as long as, and much more specific than, that in the Senate bill. It begins: "The immediate commanding officer of the unit concerned of the AFP or the immediate senior officials of the PNP and other law enforcement agencies shall be held liable as a principal to the crime of enforced disappearance for acts committed by him or her that shall have led to, ordered, abetted or allowed, whether directly or indirectly, the commission thereof by his or her subordinates."

For the many Filipinos disturbed by news of forced disappearances continuing to this day, the bill's most operative quality may be what we can call its conscience clause. Again, the House bill has the longer and more specific version: "No order of battle or any order from a superior officer or a public authority causing the commission of enforced or involuntary disappearance is unlawful and cannot be invoked as a justifying circumstance. Any person receiving such an order shall have the right to disobey it."

If the President signs the bill—and we see no reason why he shouldn't: The main author in the Senate, Sen. Ferdinando Escudero, was the son of a Marcos Cabinet secretary; Marcos' own son, Sen. Ferdinand Marcos Jr., voted for the committee report notwithstanding another Senator Bill—the Philippines will become the first country in Asia to specifically outlaw the crime of forced or involuntary disappearance.

The principal author of the bill, Rep. Edcel Lagman, spoke from deep personal experience when he sought to place the new measure in perspective. "There should be enough of desaparecidos, because enforced disappearances have emotionally, mentally and physically displaced mothers and fathers, sisters, brothers, children. These disappearances have caused us to be put under the tight watch of local and international rights groups and even a foreign government." We share the hope that, by finally giving the terrible deed a (legal) name, the country can begin exorcising the ghost of disappearances past.

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Kids help kids with 'Trick-or-Treat for Unicef'

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

IT'S ALL be Halloween again soon and kids in costumes will go from house to house to collect candies and other treats. This Halloween, children from and their parents can bring happiness to not only the kids who enjoy this yearly ritual but also others everywhere who need help. And that's by joining "Trick-or-Treat for Unicef."

Upon joining, the children will be given kits that include two boxes—one for the treats and the other for donations to Unicef. The donations are intended for disadvantaged children who are not able to enjoy their rights, like the right to education, to be healthy and to be protected. They will be used to provide lifesaving medicines, clean water, nutrition and education to kids in poor and hard-to-reach communities.

Unicef's work in the Philippines focuses on children who live in the poorest communities, or in the conflict areas, or in areas affected by natural disasters and climate-change-related calamities," said Unicef Country Representative Tomoo Hozumi. "Trick-or-Treat for Unicef allows us to assist children's rights and helping children everywhere's concern, even the children themselves. There is no reason why children not only learn about the bigger world and the situations disadvantaged children face, they can also do something about it."

The activity is something going more meaning to the Trick-or-Treat celebration by teaching children that they have the power to do good for other children around the world.

Not many know it, but Unicef depends entirely on voluntary donations to fund its work for children in the Philippines and around the world. In every celebration, every little bit, counts.

Here's how parents can register their children for the activity:

1. Go to the Unicef booths at Mega Atrium, SM Megamall, and The Podium that will be open until Oct. 27 and register. Fill out the forms and receive your child and get the free "Trick-or-Treat for Unicef" kit. Only parents and legal guardians may register their children for the free kit. One kit per child only. Schools may also register to participate. If—find out how your school can register by e-mail 756-3000.

2. Unicef staff and children will brief parents and children on how to Trick-or-Treat and how to turn in their donations.

3. Once they have their kits, children may do their Trick-or-Treating anywhere, anytime they want.

Everyone is encouraged to count their donations and provide the total amount before they turn it in. Bring all the filled-out forms and the actual box during the turnover period. Donations and boxes may be turned over to personnel at the Unicef Tech or Treat booths at Mega Atrium and The Podium lobby on Nov. 2-4.

Donations may also be turned over at any 711 Bill Payment Counter at SM department stores, through bank deposits at Metrobank (Unicef C/A 000-7000-01-28-3, or at any Banco Credit outlet.

Donations may be in cash, check or credit card. If by check, make it payable to Unicef. Amounts of P1,000 or more within Metro Manila are eligible for pickup. Coordinate with Unicef at 756-3000 or 756-3442 to make arrangements.

All children who turn in their donations will receive a certificate of recognition and a special gift from Unicef on package mid-November.

According to Unicef Philippines, the "Trick-or-Treat for Unicef" tradition began in 1950 in the United States, when Philadelphia schoolchildren first used door to door at Halloween collecting money to aid unicef milk to help children in need around the world."

The rest of the story: "The children raised a grand total of $17, kicking off a campaign that has since brought millions of dollars each year to help Unicef help disadvantaged children in more than 150 countries ever."

"Millions of children now participate in Halloween-related fund-raising campaigns in the United States, Canada, and Hong Kong, among other places. In these campaigns, children go beyond trick-or-treating in scary costumes, with the familiar orange collection boxes in hand. Children and young adults take part in various fun and educational events that help them gain a better understanding of child rights and the challenges facing children around the world—including poverty, infectious diseases, and malnutrition.

"The global campaign, now in the Philippines, has raised more than $167 million around the world and remains an inspiration to the young and the young at heart to facilitate the cause of children everywhere."

The story ran short of this:

"Unicef works in over 190 countries and territories to help children survive and thrive, from early childhood through adolescence. The world's biggest provider of vaccines for developing countries, Unicef supports child health and nutrition, good water and sanitation, quality basic education for all boys and girls, and the protection of children from violence, exploitation and AIDS.

"In the Philippines for over 30 years, Unicef works through partners from both development and communications to ensure that children are better educated and protected from harm. Unicef's quick to respond to emergencies to ensure affected communities are reached and provided with services from both governments and other service providers."

'A Framework with missing Agreements'

PASSION FOR REASON

Raul C. Pangalangan

DISLODGED and set to a climbing vehicle for a trailer even before the movie is made, low scientific expectations spoil the actual viewing. Similarly, the Framework Agreement with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front is a milestone for sure, but we can't yet say with the result peace in the end. The Framework says little but the public has been conditioned to believe it says everything. What will happen when our people finally under the hood and discover what's not there?

Most importantly, the key Framework pieces exist only refer to as "annex" that does not exist. The issues about missing annexes but goes to the heart of a peace pact: What will be in the "Annex on Power Sharing," "Annex on Wealth Sharing," and "Annex on Transitional Arrangements"? How exactly will power and wealth be shared in the future? There can be no "pot and having peace" unless we agree on these.

When the Framework was first published online, I thought the missing annexes would come before. After all, the Supreme Court struck down the Memorandum of Agreement on Ancestral Domain in 2008 because, among other grounds, it lacked transparency that the Framework, signing has come and gone, and it is clear that those annexes will do not exist.

Even worse, such issues are deferred to "Joint panel to be convened by the parties." Since we are content to reference to panels that do not yet exist and extraordinarily write them into the Framework? This was the Supreme Court's point exactly in 2008.

Analyzing what is in the Framework itself, I am concerned that the Bangsamoro's relationship to the constitutional bodies remains unclear. For example, the Framework treats constitutional accountability for which is a violation. The government peacemakers' unfinder high lights that the power-sharing of bureaucracies Region in Muslim Mindanao (Lands has been a real issue. Of the "$50 billion peace dividend" for infrastructure projects in ARMM's 2014 budget, not one centralized budget (it's been compiled." It adds that "If powers of ARMM's funding was allocated to "functional services" and spell out, that money has not been accounted for," supporting an urge of ghost employees. To say that the ARMM has "failed to deliver" by those funds is an overstated.

There why does the Framework now effectively exempt the Bangsamoro from the Constitution in Arabic's track? It says that the Bangsamoro "may create its own ranking body [that] stands paramount ... from external sources." We're talking about a lot of funds here, given US, EU and Muslim countries' assistance. The Agreement does mention the COMELEC power but limited only to funds held by "any government instrumentality, including GOCCs."

The language is so slippery. It purports to exempt GOCCs from the Constitution, but it is not the law for the Bangsamoro government to access foreign funds without independent audit, while limiting the COA to locally generated funds. Worse, the term "instrumentality" is usually limited by the Administrative Code merely to "regulatory agencies chartered institutions [like state universities and colleges] and GOCCs," and excludes all the Cabinet departments and their bureaucracies.

In sum, the Bangsamoro gets a free pass to the expected limited from complete Foreign sponsors and, if the negotiators have their way, without even having to amend the Philippine Constitution.

For the Constitution is explicit that the COA shall have the power "to examine, audit, and settle all accounts [of] the Government, or any of its subdivisions, agencies, or instrumentalities" and "[n]o law shall be passed exempting any entity of the Government or its subdivisions or any public otherwise." Surely that includes the "new autonomous political unit," called the Bangsamoro, and in its future "aspiring body."

Does these mean, when a simple choice that occurs not case but arise in the Framework? The Bangsamoro rulers may "block grants and revenue from the National Government." Say that again, please? Spurs money from heaven? Why not, if the means from abroad is more bountiful, and along the way the better to strengthen the Bangsamoro government's hand to spend to empower mufti, and weaken Manila's hold.

The COA exemption and the Bangsamoro rule over Manila's funding are not the only ways in which the Framework Sets Sikhism Delirious. Santiago insists that the Framework needs constitutional amendment because of the Bangsamoro's role in "exercise of and shared regions of governance." But Pandita Lorenzo asks whether the Bangsamoro will have a separate police force. Justice Solicitor General Estelito Mendoza asks whether the Framework is even subject to the Constitution, which states only one citizenship.

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Don't get me wrong. We all want peace, and we must do right by the Muslim constituents. But an unequal agreement referring to nonexistent annexes is a recipe for disaster in the future. Carving out a separate multilingual region for historical reasons and to skin to arming the text to paint the chicken coop.

After Edsa 1, the Filipino people thought hard and wrote down all their promises to future generations in our Constitution. In 2013, this new deal cannot be overruled by unwritten promises. Let us instead be sure that all our lives for peace to Muslim and Christian alike are made crystal-clear before we place them alongside our Constitution.

Party-list system's dirty secret

COMMISSION ON Elections Chair Sixto Brillantes is politics' most feared zombie thanks to his unprecedented party-list scrapping to oust undeserving and alleged political dynasties from a system designed to empower the marginalized. The scrapping, however finally ended on a technicality. Brillantes, who Richard Gordon (remember him?) as nominee for Mamamayan Ayaw sa Droga Ako for supposedly marginalized drug addicts? The son of El Shaddai leader Mike Velarde represents persecuted powerhouse Iglesia ni Cristo, a constituency of marginalized youth advocates. These curious examples only punctuate the possible list of inappropriate party-list nominees.

The screening took a curious turn, however, after further groups asked the Comelec to delist Buhayin, another persecuted powerhouse. With the greatest of irony, in this "Election Hello Sound Bite" era, Buhayin's nominees are the ones that were unceremoniously interrogated by rival nominees. Such rivals argue that a party-list group cited by the President as part of the administration coalition, that is building Bus Rapid Transit as its basic platform, and whose nominees have been appointed to key positions in the government, is no longer marginalized and underrepresented (now that this claim refers to the poor), not to constituents.

If a majority of elections could unseat Gov's duly elected. The party-list system was not intended solely for marginalized sectors. It was also intended to empower smaller political parties regardless of sector, particularly those with a national base but having not committed to a single district. Constitutional Commissioner Christian Monsod, for example, argued that any group that can muster 500,000 members deserves a House seat. This would allow ideology-based parties such as environmentalists, party or regional parties for Bicolanos and Muslims (as well as related district seats). Under this vision, those who believe that rebellion was necessary only in 2012, after five. This have contended the cybercrime bill, and those others speech parties, would have themselves.

This second goal explains why the Constitution created "system for electoral regions and sectoral, regional, and sectoral parties or organizations." The word "marginalized" is missing. "Regional" and "regional" refer to another political system, while "sectoral" refers to the marginalized sectors now familiar to us. The Party-List Act refers to "Filipino citizens belonging to the marginalized and underrepresented sectors, organizations and parties, and who lack well-defined political constituencies."

Then Chief Justice Reynato Puno, however, held in a judicial issuance that the first party-list system is solely intended for the marginalized, and the "national" and "regional" groups must be screened and regional parties for the marginalized sectors. Yet today, Gabriela, which drew the president and manager of Buhayin her of dazzlers cannot be appreciated by the nominees' sectors of Bahay Pari." He also added that party-list representatives should serve their represent. Chief Justice Reynaldo Puno's definition in the Ang Bagong Bayani case has gained universal acceptance, especially in the Comelec.

Buhayin is a model party-list group, not a bogus one, in the context of the latest known party gone of empowering smaller political parties championed by celebrities. Starters such as Manoeuvre and Mr. Pogi in Bicutan. There is no doubt that both the party and its individual nominees have unassailable track records representing the marginalized of various stripes. Buhayin and Ang Bagong Bayani's representative, Akbayan has an unassailable party ideology that transcends its increasingly proud, vocal nominees and has successfully entered mainstream political debate.

Finally, the constitutional commissioners anticipated that small parties would ally with large ones. In the Comelec system that the likes of Bonifacio Tiu, Gabriela's nominee, has a nominee a district residents and a party-list, since there are two seats in no-one system. Such alliances are the very lifeline of politics and do not mean a party-list group is an administration front group.

Ballots can be taken on the Brillantes task of objectively enforcing the Constitution's subjective guide. It is to his credit that the public supports the group. One hopes, however, that the Comelec intends carefully after the most obvious cases of abuse, given how someone like Walden helps raise funds himself on the same chopping block as fellow nominees.

Bicol representatives for the marginalized has developed far more slowly than the Constitution's drafters anticipated. Party-list representatives have to realize given how subjective it is. In contrast to Hilary Ateneo, how Agusto can represent peasants despite his being the President's cousin, given his long track record as social entrepreneurship. Bicol's Rep. Rodel Batocabe's ties to

Catch basins for floodwaters

LET US not accept the fact that Laguna de Bay will not be dredged at all anymore, for now or beyond 2016. So let us look into alternative solutions to flooding.

There will be flooding in Metro Manila every rainy day or heavy rain. Why? Because Laguna de Bay is already full.

Before the "Habagat" flood of August 2012, I already noticed the high water level in Laguna de Bay. During the "Habagat" flood my children left Pacdonawa Village on the morning of Aug. 7 when the rain water started to backflow into the village. I chose to stay behind to monitor the situation. I was trapped inside our house for three days.

Pacdonawa Village's perimeter dike was not breached even when the river water level rose to 20.33 meters. The floodwater was "lawayat sa" inside the living room of our house. The culprits: the drowned drainage pipes (2mE inches) which allowed floodwater to "backflow" because there was no gate, and the bowling-ball pumps donated by the government, which were useless.

Contrary to claims that the Mangahan floodgates were opened during the "Habagat" flood, the Manggahan Floodway—as reported in the website of the city government of Pasig—was opened only on Aug. 8-9 and also at the flood (Aug. 24-Sept. 20)—directed otherwise. The water levels at Rosario and Angono after the flood were practically the same because the floodgates were opened, with three sea-gates above 3 meters (Mlw) at its mean height at Rosario and Angono during the flood, signifying the floodgates were closed. Lesson: believe what the floodgates were closed contrary to the established purpose of the Manggahan Channel: to drain the Laguna de Bay Flood Control System.

We looked also into the operation why there is a backflow of rainwater from Marikina River during high tides when the water level in the Laguna de Bay drops to lower than 10.0 meters mark, and why the floodwaters in Laguna de Bay and Marikina River were not draining to Manila Bay as fast as we expected, even at the elevation of 13.0-14.0 meters above sea level. We found out that the gradient is only 0.04 percent (26 meters in 25 kilometers) or 1 millimeter in 25 meters). As the flow rate is nearly constant.

Dredging Laguna de Bay is now out of the question and we still cannot expect to drain the lake via the Napindan Channel as much as we can before (say, we have to look for an alternative spillway to the sea that can be done also. Why not install diesel pumps at the Napindan and Manggahan floodgates and control the water level inside Laguna de Bay by pumping out excess water and taking note the heavy rainfalls, while maintaining a safe water level for use as possible source supply and for sustainable food production?

If we do it now, through emergency purchase, use of cabinet funds, reallocation of budgets, public-use idle pumps in the MMDA and DPWH pumping stations and even calling for private initiatives, we can right away alleviate the sufferings of the still flooded riparian residents and give hope to citizens because of the flood.

Then October-August's roll over.

—HILARION M. HERNANDEZ, JR.
jun.hernandez@live.com

Cheaper option to P3.5B flood control project

THE DEPARTMENT of Public Works and Highways proposed multibillion-peso (P3.5 billion) flood control projects have been presented as the final solution to the flood woes of Metro Manila. And for the proposal of a Rainier Magsaysay Foundation awardee, the environment-friendly barrier system Ayuma Bloom, to build several ponds (artificial catchment basins) at strategic areas, may turn out to be a viable and is keeping with the national capability of our economy.

In pursuing the unqualified support given by with staggering cost, its proponents should consider the experience of other countries with floods. For one, the experience shows which proved better (Holland's flood-defying structures or the fury of Hurricane Katrina, which submerged the city by water, to name some main points of the United States, China and the United Kingdom were flooded despite their dredging and infrastructure against floods. And very recently, Manila and Metro Manila were inundated. Indeed, a lot have stated in the United States that more related flooding calendar weeks or months.

This threat is no guarantee that public infrastructure on such flooding. Our governments should instead channel these billions of pesos to projects that will strengthen the Philippines' components economic advantage in the face of the broad nature of our people across the national of particular policies.

For one, our government should focus and concentrate on making electricity affordable with the private sector of the people. Our electricity rates is one of the highest and most expensive compared to other countries in Southeast Asia, and is it available mostly in urban areas. Thus, the government must invest more in simple power-plants. Indeed, it is more appropriate to supply energy to our industries and domestic users. We must endeavor to have a surplus of electricity so that businesses, industries can operate 24/7 and create more jobs. Power must be more given priority funding by projects to be like, geothermal, hydro and solar energy.

—EDWARD S. CONTRERAS
Sr. Joyce Street, La Arguela Park, Tanajon, Rosario City

Why there's no need for reproductive health law

MY ADVANCE apologies should my arch enemies offend anyone. I assume that most reproductive health bill (House Bill 4244) supporters haven't been training Google. Had they been doing so, they would have ended up opposing the bill because they would have known the following:

• In October 2006, a meta-analysis of nearly-one-dozen studies was published in the Mayo Clinic Journal, revealing that OC (oral contraceptive) use raises the risk of breast cancer later in life (http://www.polycrug.org/women/news_clinic_article.html). Given that the Philippines ranked first in breast cancer incidence in Asia (http://www.gsk.com.ph/breastcancer.html), with all the more reason the RH bill should be opposed by Congress and President Aquino.

Moreover, in 2005, the World Health Organization classified combined oral contraceptive pills and hormone replacement therapy as "carcinogenic to humans." WHO said that OC use increases the risk of developing cancers of the breast, liver and cervix (http://www.mercola.com/2005/dec/20/birth_control_pills_cancer.htm). Carcinogenicity of Contraceptive Hormones, p.68). Those three types of cancer are more prevalent compared to endometrial and ovarian cancer. OC protects women from these cancers.

• Filipinos by nature are increasing cholesterol kings if they are given the opportunity to eat fat. On average, Filipino women are renowned for this quality. Meanwhile, our country's main problem is not the population, as misguided, bumped-brain, ex-appointees, corrupted economic opportunists, etc. to Earl Marx said, poverty of economy should regard the problem as such. Filipinos are smart enough to enable him to work. Filipinos take pride in what they do best. Therefore, give them work they can take pride in.

• PhP billion is the projected budget in House Bill 4244. Ridiculously big, right? That's why I would rather have the funds go to our public hospitals. Restore their air-dried level of latest treatment because of poor facilities and lack of medicines.

• We are in a democratic country, meaning, there's no law prohibiting the sale to purchase of contraceptives, be it in the form of condoms or IUD, but the pro-RH advocates would cry. How about the poor who don't have the money to buy contraceptives and the information to decide what is best for you?

Well, guess what? The bill is already practically being implemented. Why do I say this? Because the agency of the administration system are supplied with dozens of condoms and pills. People are free to go there and ask for services. Also, of course, they go through some process. However, health personnel give lectures about reproduction health every now and then. Hence, there is no need for House Bill 4244.

• And just recently Rep. Edcel Lagman said that the DOH decision on the family planning pills is immoral and unjust. Immoral, he said, because the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) will determine the safety and efficacy of medicines. What if the FDA would deem them unsafe and also kill his already born progeny? They then will be a waste of both money and time.

—ELEANOR MORRIS (ejmorris@gmail.com)

The 'kalbaryo,' once again

THE MAN in Malacañang has done it again. In his desire to promote a friend in office, he blurs the line between administration and election. After conducting the unprecedented move of an undersecretary the residence of the late Executive Secretary Jesse Robredo, he reminded the country of his penchant for the unprecedented in criminal case for graft against her, he justified his act with the simplistic reasoning that he believes that the official is operation is innocent of the charge.

Mr. Aquino completely names the point. Grace Poblete, as a member of the Commission on Elections, will be involved in the sensitive task of overseeing next year's elections. Will not the favor extended to her by the man who is the head of a political party that will be fielding candidates in the elections compromise the independence of that member?

Our penal code prohibits the giving of gifts or a public officer by reason of his or her office. If Poblete was put to ordinary office, would she have done it? Because of her position, the question does not arise.

—MANUEL CATINDIG III,
retired Court of Appeals justice,
San Pedro Street, Ayala Living,
Pasig City

at-TEN-Tion!

P10

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Obama courts Fil-Americans

From page A1

took away full recognition of the Filipinos and stripped them of their benefits, leaving hundreds in the former colony and decades of campaigning to change US policy.

Pitches that Obama took office in 2009, Congress approved a stimulus package that included certain payments of $15,000 to Filipino veterans in the United States and $9,000 to those living in the Philippines.

He said that 18,000 claims had been approved.

"However, we also have heard from many Filipino veterans who have been impeded from filing claims or believe their claims were improperly denied," he went on a Pilipino history lesson.

GOING COURTING US President Barack Obama speaks during a campaign rally at Cornell College in Mt. Vernon, Iowa, on Wednesday following the second presidential debate against Mitt Romney on Oct. 16.

PH records not accepted

Lu said the Pentagon, Department of Veterans Affairs and the National Archives and Record Administration were setting up a working group to resolve the issue.

"This is part of the Obama administration's ongoing efforts to honor the contributions of all veterans in their service to our country," he said.

Commonly referred to and nicknamed as "forgotten but dedicated," usually because 91 authorities did not accept records from the Philippines which were the former fighters who returned to serve their service.

Some aging veterans also said it was impossible to file their claims in time for the Feb. 16, 2010 deadline.

Promise should be kept

Democratic Rep. Jackie Speier, whose California district has a large Filipino-American community, welcomed the latest administration effort, but said that Congress needed to do more and give Filipino veterans the same benefits that others enjoyed.

"If Filipino men, specifically native-born Filipinos, were the first war that they were promised full benefits by President Franklin D. Roosevelt," she said in a statement.

"A promise made should be a promise kept. We have broken our promises and it's time to make amends," she said.

$1K denied compensation

Advocates for Fil-Am veterans said more than $1,000 veterans were denied compensation and that the waiting process did not provide adequate coverage to some cases.

The disqualified veterans complaint 30 percent of the 45,000 surviving veterans who filed their claims under the compromise fund, according to retired Maj. Gen. Emilio Lumasanda, head of the Office of American Affairs at the Philippine Embassy.

He said the US government had to fix around $22217 million to 18,000 Filipino veterans from the $200 million compensation fund.

Implementing guidelines

Lumasanda said the disqualified claims were examined from the implementing guidelines issued by the Obama administration's office to help the veterans.

Art Garcia, national coordinator of the Los Angeles-based Justice for Filipino American Veterans (JFAV), praised the initiative as a "significant step to extend assistance."

He said this effort was in stark contrast with the "reservation" then received from Republican Rep. Jeff Miller, chair of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, who denied their support for a hearing on a bill that would expand eligibility for veterans' benefits.

Garcia said he had received a call from Lu's office asking him and other leaders of veterans' groups to participate in a dialogue with the newly created interagency body.

"Thank you, President Obama," Corrina Leonard Mendoza Mack Pulido posted on Facebook. Pulido said his aunt was "an extraordinary" of the grandfathers, WWII veterans. Jack Pulido had difficulty walking, and all those who fought during the war.

Full, not half, benefits

Philippine Ambassador Jose Cuisia Jr. thanked Lu for setting up the working group.

"We would like to assure our veterans that the Philippine government will continue to exert strong efforts to convince US authorities to address the compensation issue and grant them the benefits they deserve," Cuisia said.

Speier said: "Congress needs to act to ensure that Filipino World War II veterans and their families are entitled to full benefits and compensation for their service, and the executive branch enthusiastic is totally unfunded to do this."

Speier was author of the Filipino Veterans Fairness Act of 2011, which would make the Filipino WWII veterans eligible to benefits received by all US veterans. With a report from AFP

IN THE KNOW: 2.6 million Filipino-Americans

TWO% a national 2.6 million Filipino Americans in the United States, according to the 2010 census.

The number represents those who refer to themselves as "Filipino only" in response to the census, making those the third largest Asian group, next to the Chinese (3.3 million) and the Asian Indians (2.8 million).

When the search for "mixed race Filipinos" is taken into consideration, the figure for Filipinos is at 3.4 million, making them the second largest Asian group, next to the Chinese (4 million).

The general voting record of Filipino-Americans in US elections has been said to be physical and Fil-Am voter apathy continues to be a challenge.

The National Federation of Filipino American Associations has implemented a get-out-the-vote program to encourage Fil-Am voters to participate in the electoral process.

Most likely to vote

Results of the National Asian American Survey (NAAS) conducted through Sept. 16, 2012, showed that:

- 92 percent of Fil-Ams are most likely to vote.
- Among likely voters, 61 percent of Asian-Americans support Barack Obama while 24 percent support Mitt Romney.

There is a more considerable difference among ethnic groups, with 68 percent of Filipinos showing the strongest support for Obama (68 percent), and Filipinos showing the strongest support for Romney (28 percent).

Significant shift

In a significant shift from previous surveys, Fil-Ams (who identify themselves as Republicans over Democrats).

Island, Fil-Ams are also the highest proportion of those who identify themselves as Republicans among Asian-Americans, a designation that has applied to Vietnamese-American over older registered voters, but has now declined.

Approval of Obama's job is particularly high among native-Americans (82 percent), and is consistently low among Fil-Ams (45 percent).

Source: /archives.org/pdf/2012/2012-11.pdf; http://www.naasurvey.com/publications/NAAS12-election.pdf

P-Noy, Corona: Chilling out with the enemy

From page A1

CLASSIC ROCK Arcuri's Gerry Bertiz on keyboards and Danny Rosenthal on guitar share the Big Chunk audience, including the President.

MANOLO SORIANO

Bahamas, a Hawaiian band popular in the 1970s, opened the concert. Its breezy island music helped set the mood for a relaxing night. Its most famous hits, "Nightbird" and "Bus Part," were warmly applauded by the crowd.

During intermissions, life-sized chess up, walked along the crowd to entertain the food chefs, and was overheard saying he wanted proper. Not feeling it, he proceeded to play outside the Big Dome lobby.

He returned just in time for dessert at last.

Baby boomers and hippies

The group's first two songs—"Tin Man," "You Can Do Magic," "Don't Dream It's Over," "Daisy Jane"—elicited loud cheers from the audience, which was composed of baby boomers or those born between 1946 and 1964, and the hippie generation, or those who were teenagers when the beach-themed music was popular in the 1970s.

Originally a trio, the band lost one of its members, Ron Peek, who left the group in 1981 and died last year.

But its two other members, Gerry Bertiz and Danny Rosenthal, have not stopped performing and recording since forming the band in 1973.

"We've been doing this for 42 years and we play an average of 100 shows each year," Bertiz said in between songs.

Oldies

After doing a few covers of songs by Jimi Hendrix ("Wind-cheat") and the Eagles and the Pepsi ("California Dreaming"), among other oldies, Bertiz and Rosenthal, joke those veterans, went back to playing the band's newest hit, "The Border," "Imposter Milk," "Dally in Your Head," "Lonely People," "Sometimes," "Make Goldenrush."

"Lonely People" and "Come Another Rain" got the loudest applauses, but "Sometimes" remains a stand and for its groovy version, the concepts of electric guitar riffs capturing the bellbalance of the 60s and 70s.

When the band released its carpage for its encore, "All We Like" was" to request the "Dance," many in the crowd were singing along to the lyrics.

Coming concerts

Mr. Aquino, who closed to the end of the show, would not probably be treated at Big Dome to watch coming concerts headlining artists he listens to whose Elton John on Dec. 8, and Sting, whose show on Dec. 9 has changed venues from the Mall of Asia Arena to Smart Araneta Coliseum.

Insiders said might show up, too.

LEST WE FORGET Justice for Fr. Fausto Tentorio, fondly known as Father Pops, who was shot dead by a hired gunman in Arakan, North Cotabato, exactly one year yesterday, remains elusive. Members of his clergy and human rights coalitions in Quiapo, Manila, on Wednesday night to mark protest for the unresolving Italian priest and other victims of extrajudicial killings. (STORY BELOW)

House new RH bill targets foes' concerns

From page A1

Congress.

"It's a bill that answers a lot of the objections to the original bill," Belmonte said yesterday.

Some of the opponents still find the new version more susceptible "with a little more tinkering," although there are those who still find it hard to accept such a measure, he said.

Compromise

Members of the bill issued a technicality to the watered-down bill in the original one so that the compromise measure would be the basis of proposed individual amendments later, Senate Majority Leader Vicente Sotto III told reporters on Wednesday night.

Sources said copies of the "proposed working draft" of the new bill were being distributed to lawmakers so that they could peruse it during Congress' two-week break that started yesterday, and make a more informed decision about their stand on the bill.

The proposed Responsible Parenthood and Reproductive Health and Population and Development Act is one of the "very important" bills that the House has to act on when it returns from its two-week recess, Belmonte told lawmakers before the House adjourned on Wednesday.

One of the main authors of the bill, Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman, said the new features of the bill were intended to address the objections, reservations and concerns of the critics. There were no additions to the other changes that the authors announced earlier.

Supporters accommodated

"The foregoing new and old acceptable amendments do not dilute or destroy the essence of the original bill even as they accommodate the suggestions and concerns of well-meaning [opponents]," Lagman said in a statement.

The new version says the state would subsidize the health of poor households when it comes to providing reproductive healthcare services and devices.

The impoverished men and women to be provided services must be identified through the National Household Targeting System for Poverty Reduction and other government methods of identifying marginalization. They must also be voluntary beneficiaries of reproductive healthcare services and supplies for free.

The new bill also says that the state should guarantee public access to accurate information and education on sexual and reproductive health, legal, ethical, affordable, effective and quality reproductive health care services, methods, devices and supplies.

These methods and supplies must not prevent the implantation of a fertilized ovum, as determined by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the draft bill said.

Prohibited devices

Gonzales explained that the prohibition against devices that would prevent the implantation of a fertilized ovum stemmed from concerns raised by opponents who said that contraceptives that destroy fertilized ovum were considered abortifacients.

Other contraceptives not considered abortifacients are those that prevent ovulation and those that prevent fertilization.

The new draft bill also recognizes parents' religious beliefs when it comes to exercising their reproductive health rights.

Responsible parenthood

The compromise measure defines responsible parenthood as the "active, informed and voluntary participation of parents in adequately responding to the needs and aspirations of the family and children by responsibly and freely exercising their reproductive health rights consistent with their religious convictions."

The draft bill also requires the state to promote openness to life and adds that parents should only have children that they would raise in a "truly human way."

Population targets dropped

Another new provision requires state funding to promote modern and natural methods of family planning consistent with the needs of acceptors.

There would also be no demographic and population targets. The midyear, primetime re-introduction of the population growth rate would also be included to the advancement of reproductive health and sustainable human development.

Priority

The new draft bill also states that when it comes to family planning information and services, making women of reproductive age fully aware of their respective fertility cycles shall be the priority.

Reproductive health and sexuality education shall also be done with due deference to cultural, religious and ethical norms of various communities.

Parenting schools would be given flexibility in teaching responsible health and sexuality education, within the provisions and parameters of the section on age-appropriate mandatory reproductive health and sexuality education. — TJ

The FDA would also be required to update the Philippine National Drug Formulary with respect to modern family planning products and supplies in accordance with standard medical practices.

P-Noy urged to sign bill on 'desaparecidos'

From page A1

enforced disappearances," said Bayan Muna Rep. Neri Colmenares, a principal author of the bill in the House of Representatives.

On Tuesday, the Senate and the House of Representatives approved the Anti-Enforced Disappearance Bill ratified by the bicameral conference committee, paving the way for its signing by the President. It took more than 20 years before such a measure was finally ratified by both chambers of Congress.

The President withstood from making any commitment yet on the landmark measure. His spokesperson, Edwin Lacierda, yesterday stressed that Malacañang needed more to study the legislation in its entirety before issuing a "comprehensive statement."

"The President has not seen the bill. We have not seen the bill. All we have are media reports coming from the several senators," he told reporters in a Palace briefing. "The President does not wish to comment on anything he has not seen yet."

Dulce the line, the President can sign a legislation or let it lapse into law.

First in Asia

Considered the first of its kind in Asia if enacted into law, the bill seeks to impose a penalty of life imprisonment, or from 20 years and one day to 40 years in prison, on those convicted for enforced disappearance. It allows victims to seek compensation, restitution and rehabilitation.

Moreover, the bill seeks to outline secret detention facilities and requires detention centers to provide a periodically updated register of all detained persons in the Philippines, a safeguard to investigations conducted against enforced disappearances.

Subversives, a human rights lawyer, said it was about time that the abductions of Fuegos, Empeño, Cadapan and other activists "come forward and inform the families of their victims where their victims are."

Otherwise, he said, the secrecy, if inserted, "will plant doubts from children and parents from their accountability and punishment they so richly deserve."

Bunye was joined by a group of men and a woman at a departmental store on Commonwealth Avenue in 2007. He was dragged into a Toyota Revo vehicle whose license plate was later traced to the Army's 56th Infantry Battalion in Norzagaray, Bulacan.

Empeño and Cadapan, both students of the University of the Philippines, have been missing since the year before. Retired Army Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan and other soldiers have been implicated in many of the cases of enforced disappearance. The others are "abduction, involvement of state or government or its agents, and the intent to violate of the person's rights," the law said.

Sen. Pimentel Escudero said the new bill differed from the existing law against abduction because it requires no presumption of a victim's body.

"In kidnapping, there's either a body recovered or someone is known as being held hostage. In this case, the person is still missing," he said.

The New York-based Human Rights Watch (HRW) and other groups praised the President to immediately sign the bill into law.

In statement would demonstrate the Philippine government's commitment to address human rights abuses, such as the abduction and killing by the security forces of activists, reporters, communities and journalists, the HRW said.

"Enforced disappearances, often involving torture and extrajudicial killings, have been a blot on the Philippines' human rights record since the Ferdinand Marcos dictatorship," Brad Adams, HRW Asia director, said in a statement.

"To this day, activists are still being abducted by the military and 'disappeared.' This law would be an important step toward ending these abuses," he added.

Lacierda quoted specifications in the bill. The Philippine Army had reservations about the measure, pointing out that it had yet to be transmitted to Malacañang.

"We have not seen the bill yet so it is unfair to conclude anything from the President. If he sees fit[, then we'll let you know. But he has not yet seen the copy of the law itself or the bill[ecode]," he said.

Malacañang was still unsatisfied from the public backlash against the Anti-Cybercrime Prevention Act, which imposes a higher penalty for online libel. The law has been met with protests and backing of government authorities—with Del De Presidente didn't see the need when he signed it on Sept. 16.

The Supreme Court has unanimously issued a 120-day temporary restraining order against the cyberlaw's implementation.

Martial law experience

Enforced disappearances were rampant during the dictatorship of President Ferdinand Marcos, when the military and police routinely rounded up activists and suppressed communist supporters and rebels, the HRW said.

"The practice did not end with Marcos's ouster in 1986. Many enforced disappearances occurred during the administration of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. At least 11 activists have 'disappeared' since 9th August took office in 2010, according to local rights groups, though there are no allegations that the Aquino administration has direct responsibility," it said.

Rep. Edcel Lagman described the crime as "an abnormal feat of the martial law regime to silence opposition and human rights advocates."

He said it "continues to be employed by subsequent administrations after the end of the martial law regime."

Justice Secretary Leila de Lima yesterday said her department was one with the nation "in eagerly anticipating its coming into law the soonest possible time."

Brownie points

In statement, she said, would earn the Philippines brownie points from human rights advocates and experts, particularly those from the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC).

"We can be assured of the full support and approval from human rights advocates and experts, particularly those from the UNHRC," said De Lima, who received from the Philippine Bar Association, which also lauded the Philippine Government in the 6th Presidential Report on the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

She said the bill was a "recognition of the injury and mistrust that victims and families of disappearances are subjected to, bearing in mind that enforced disappearance is undoubtedly one of the worst forms of human rights violations." — *With a report from Christamyl S. Asuncion*

SHATTERED DREAMS Overseas Filipino workers arrive home from ravaged Syria with stories of abuse and hope. Twenty-four-year-old Norma Pagalungan proudly shows overseas home she envisioned a broken arm while trying to climb down a building using improvised ropes to escape her employer upon her arrival at Ninoy Aquino International Airport. At right, other returning workers rejoin in open-mouthed cheers.

DRAGON LADIES Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile welcomes Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Fu Ying (center), a former ambassador to Manila, and current Chinese Ambassador to the Philippines Ma Keqing to the Senate on Thursday. Fu is here for the 18th Foreign Ministry Consultations discussions on the improvement of relations between China and the Philippines. [See story on Page A2.] CONNIE BERNARDO

Comelec hears out 'Kris hubby'

By Jeannette I. Andrade
Inquirer Visayas

Even both might consider only one of them as a possible candidate in next year's polls—businessman and former government official Richard Bonoan, who said he was a friend of President Aquino.

"At least, it's over. We'll know our resolution once and for," Brillantes said after the hearing as the Comelec main session hall.

"We had to hear them and give them due process. We just can't say no to them. Under the Omnibus Election Code, we have to hear them out," he said when asked how it felt going through the whole experience.

'Why not try us?'

Brillantes and Commissioners Rene Sarmiento, Grace Padaen, Lucenito Tagle and Armando Velasco patiently posed questions to the hopefuls during the nameless hearing.

Seventeen aspirants out of a total of 43 scheduled to appear yesterday failed to show up. Brillantes said the aspirants he considered nuisance candidates—and, therefore, eliminated—unless they could convincingly explain their absence.

Brillantes repeatedly asked the aspirants if they were happy with the performances of the Senate.

"Now's you happy with Senator (Lito) Lapid?" Brillantes asked aspirant Elizabeth Capistrano, a nurse.

Capistrano said she was satisfied with Lapid but added: "Let new ones participate. Why not try us?"

Apology to Portugal

Among those who showed up was Orlando Xanthe, who said he was an employee of the Land Transportation Office conducting seminars for future drivers.

"We should write a letter of apology to the people of Portugal for the death of Magellan," Xanthe said...referring to the 16th century Portuguese explorer—whom asked about his platforms.

He also wanted to change the date of Philippine Independence Day and change the Spanish-sounding surnames of Filipinos which have "negative meanings."

"Surnames like Sarapitin at Mayaklis. Generations of Filipinos shouldn't suffer under those surnames," said Xanthe, whose name means "lucky" in Spanish.

Brillantes joked: "Maybe you also want to ban Malas (unlucky)", or change those surnames to Filipino, like Pato (one) ... or Isaga (Isosaki), Ugat (root), or Dahon (leaf)."

White House link

Ibrahim Edmundo Fernandez all but went down on his knees to beg the Comelec to allow him to run for the Senate.

"I have an online (connection) to the White House. I've e-mailed President Obama to ask that we become a US state, like Hawaii or the US territory Puerto Rico," Fernandez said.

Brillantes replied: "I'd pity President Obama if we become a state. We're no money."

But Fernandez said he wanted his grandchildren to have a better life, adding the Philippines was going nowhere because of greed and corruption.

"If I have to kneel, I would, just so I can plead for our US statehood ... Thank you, Your Excellency," he said.

Going back home

Brillantes cornered him and said Comelec commissioners preferred to be addressed "Your Honor" rather than "Your Excellency" because "the member of Presidents here might suddenly increase."

"But that's just right for you because your hair is so white," Fernandez said and, eliciting laughter, added facetiously: "Kung hindi ninyo pa rin, bigyan pa rin ako ng (We are just moving on while you are on your way back home)."

Brillantes replied in jest that he didn't want to be going home yet.

Each candidate spoke for six minutes or more as with the commissioners questioning them on their political views, background and capability to wage a nonviral campaign across the country.

'Exile overstaying'

While the aspirants presented different platforms, they were united in saying that the Senate badly needed new blood.

"Why have elections if we're going to see the same old faces?" asked Daniel Magtira, the self-proclaimed husband of Kris Aquino, eliciting applause from those present.

He wore a bow tie with a pin which read: "Sen. Magtira."

Antonio Dimayo, a native of Cagayan who promised to supply Filipinos with vegetables if elected, said his wouldn't mind extending the Senate presidency.

"But it's also from Cagayan, like the Senate President (Juan Ponce Enrile) ... Aren't you afraid about replacing him?" Brillantes asked.

"There has been a little change in the feature (Enrile) is already overstaying (in office)."

Someone from the gallery shouted: "Give others a chance!"

Health dep't confirms PDI story on toxic taxis

By Jeannette I. Andrade
Inquirer Visayas

passengers to ALPG.

Amante said the Center of Health-NCR conducted the rapid health assessment study because of the rising number of complaints of "dizziness, headache, light-headedness and dryness of throat among taxi drivers whose vehicles were LPG-converted."

Amante said investigators in ALPG could lead to "unconsciousness and even death."

"It is important that installation should be done only by an ALPG installer approved by the Department of Trade and Industry to ensure that the setup is correctly done," Amante said in a statement.

"A list of legitimate...accredited and certified service providers should be disseminated to the transport sector in order to avoid [proliferation of] fly-by-night operators," he said.

"Only by introducing regulations and standards to ensure the safe use of ALPG can we ensure the health and safety not only of drivers but also passengers," he added.

Complaints

"We would like to set policy directions on the implementation of standards and guidelines in auto LPG-[powered] vehicles and determine the potential exposure and health effects among population groups exposed to these vehicles compared to population groups exposed to [conventional vehicles]," Amante said.

He said the study showed that the effects of exposure to auto-LPG include headaches, back pain or nape pain, chest pain, cough, dizziness, dry throat, fatigue and muscle weakness, nausea and breathing difficulty.

The study found that these are due to decreased delivery of oxygen to the body's vital organs. It also found that "overexposure may cause unconsciousness and even death."

Amante said the study also found that the amount of hydrogen sulfide (H2S) was 68 times higher and carbon monoxide (CO) levels were eight times greater for auto-LPG retrofitted vehicles than those measured in conventional vehicles.

Dangerous emissions

The emission of dangerous chemicals within the vehicles may be due to improper conversion, lack of regular and recommend monitoring of the vehicles and poor maintenance of the vehicles, he added.

Amante said the study covered 20 ALPG and 12 conventional vehicle taxi drivers who were randomly selected from a list of users of auto LPG-powered vehicles and users of conventional vehicles (diesel and gasoline).

The drivers were aged 18 to 65 years old, with two years of experience driving only one type of vehicle or working in the station, and were not smokers, Amante said.

The study covered 33 taxis: 20 ALPG taxis, and 25 gasoline or diesel taxis, he added.

Alternative fuels

The passage of the Clean Air Act of 1999 and the Biofuels Act of 2006 mandated biofuels in the country and use of other alternative fuel sources to reduce dependence on petroleum-based fuels.

One of the most widely used alternative fuels is the natural gas known as automotive LPG gas, or auto-LPG.

ALPG is cleaner than conventional automotive fuels. It is a mixture of light hydrocarbon gas in propane (30 percent) and butane (70 percent), Amante said.

Because of its environmental and economic benefits, auto-LPG was considered one of the best alternative automotive fuels in the country and was introduced in 2000, he added.

Amante said 19,052 taxis were converted from 2005 to 2011, or an average of 2,380 taxis a year, with 117 refilling stations. Many fuel conversion shops are now auto-LPG conversion shops have been licensed to service vehicles.

Human factor

Amante said countries with large numbers of LPG vehicles and high consumption of ALPG include the United States, Japan, Australia and Canada.

But studies from these countries have found that there is no evidence to show that LPG is more dangerous or less dangerous than gasoline or diesel, Amante said.

The studies showed that human factor plays a major role in affecting safety to the use of LPG fuel. In Japan, there is no recorded explosion or a serious accident for 50 years since the introduction of various safety measures regarding the use of LPG fuel, Amante said.

Canada also reported human error...careless fuel handling and faulty workmanship—as the major cause of accidents involving LPG vehicles. There were 23 accidents reported during refueling, indicating the danger during that stage of operation, he added.

Recommendations

Amante said the DOH study strongly recommended a review and revision of occupational health programs for drivers to prevent the occurrence of symptoms of discomfort/symptoms among drivers by exposure to ALPG.

"Taxis should also be refer air-quality testing to determine adequate oxygen (O_2) level, ventilation and chemical contaminants in the vehicle, "which can be done during the mandating periodic inspection by the Land Transportation, Franchising and Regulatory Board," he said.

Ventilation of the vehicle should also be considered "during idle times to allow fresh air to enter the vehicle and establish engine's manufacturer on the premises. We level of tolerance that can be added to auto-LPG fuel," Amante said, quoting from the study.

Other recommendations included strict observation of the maintenance schedule for both ALPG and conventional vehicles prior to registration, implementation of regulations work schedules for drivers, and evaluation of ergonomic and other chemical hazards for transport workers, Amante said.

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Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

Across the NATION

Gunfight kills 3 believed kin of tribal chief

SIBUGAY CITY—A military operation against a tribal leader who had taken up arms in a fight the scion of belong in his community led to the killing of three persons believed to be members of the tribal chief's family.

Lt. Col. Alexis Bravo, head of the Army's 37th Infantry Battalion, said law enforcers went to Barangay Bitoon in Kabasalan, Zamboanga del Sur after receiving a tip that Datu Dagol Capion was in the area.

Capion a leader of the Bilaan tribe who has been tagged in armed attacks on and the killings of security officers and individuals connected with a mining project by Sagittarius Mines Inc.

Capion and his brothers Jaime and Alberto are on the wanted list of undersecretary for the armed attacks.

Bravo said law enforcers took positions outside a hut where Capion was believed to be hiding when the encounter went from 6:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.

The lawmen retrieved five, according to Bravo, but did not know that Capion had fled with his followers.

Inside the hut, Bravo said soldiers found the bodies of a woman believed to be Capion's wife and of two men believed to be the tribal leader's sons.

Orlando Mercy, Inquirer Mindanao

Farmers' co-ops disown seized rice

Firm surfaces at hearing to claim ownership of shipment from Vietnam

By Mar S. Arguelles
Inquirer Southern Luzon

LEGAZPI CITY—The mystery deepens over the P141 million worth of rice believed to be smuggled from Vietnam and which found its way to this city's port.

At a hearing yesterday here, three farmers' groups that were listed as consignees of the rice shipment denied that they sought permits to import the rice.

Representatives of the farmers groups—Ugnayan Magbubukid ng San Isidro, Pamplan (Ugnayan); Kaugnayan Tabaco Multi-Purpose Cooperative Multipurpose Cooperative Citizens Inc. (Kaugnayan) and Samahan ng Magsasakang Kumpanggan at Kaugdugan (SMKK)—told the Bureau of Customs that they did not import the rice.

In the same hearing, a private firm surfaced to claim ownership of the shipment. Representatives of the firm, Green Valley Chemical Corp. told Customs officials at the hearing that the firm is the shipment's owner although it is not listed as a consignee.

The shipment, consisting of 84,000 bags of Siomai rice, arrived at the city port in June. But it was consigned to the National Food Authority on behalf of several farmers' cooperatives that included the three groups that denied having any role in the importation.

A list of the consignees purportedly showed that 21,000 bags were for Tigbinan, 21,000 bags were for Kanipaan and 18,000 bags were for SMKK. The three farmers' cooperatives, however, denied that they were consignees of the rice shipment.

Only two of the farmers' groups that are listed as consignees acknowledged the importation. They are the Sili Multi-Purpose Cooperative and the Samahan ng mga Kapanpan-an sa Sitio Kinabuhan Sapsuran, Bataan of the two groups claimed they have importation documents.

Also at the Customs hearing here, the lawyer of Bling Trading Shipping Lines, the agent that brought in the rice, filed a motion asking Customs officials to release the vessel until for the shipment, MV Minh Tuan 68, and discharge the rice cargo.

The Customs bureau had issued a warrant of seizure and detention that prevented the vessel from leaving the city port and prevented the release of the rice cargo.

The shipping company claimed that it has been incurring huge losses since the vessel was prevented from leaving the city port and kept docked there.

Its master has a second lawyer, Christopher Lubrel, lawyer and Customs hearing officer, said the Customs bureau would soon decide when to release the vessel. Lubrel said the vessel was bound to have complied with environmental laws after an inspection by the Philippine Coast Guard.

Lubrel said the bureau would also decide on a request by those behind the rice shipment to transfer the venue of the hearing to the Customs office in Manila. A decision may be set on this matter by Nov. 6, according to Lubrel.

HEIRLOOM
The number of farmers still cultivating so-called heirloom rice, such as those grown in this farm in Bontoc, Mt. Province, is not growing. But efforts are underway to preserve the cultivation of this type of rice for export.

Memo links Olongapo cop chief to drug bribery

OLONGAPO CITY—A report by a police official to Central Luzon linked this city's police chief to a drug-related bribery scam, saying the official had received the illegal activities of his men.

In an Oct. 8 memorandum to Chief Supt. Edgardo Ladao, regional police chief, Senior Supt. Joseph Talaga Ramos said the alleged activities at the Olongapo City police office were "being tolerated by City police chief, Senior Supt. Christopher Tan Bangan ... where he received P10,000 as his share" in bribe money in exchange for the settlement of an illegal drugs case.

Ramos, in his memo, said this showed that Tumbaga as "he does failed to exercise or relevant the illegal activities." Tumbaga yesterday refused to be comment, saying he has yet to see Ramos's memorandum.

Ramos said the P10,000 shared by Olongapo police men, including Tumbaga, came from two drug suspects last July.

Ramos cited the case arrest John Vargas' relatives, who fell victim to Tumbaga's men.

Mayor James Gordon Jr. had asked Interior Secretary Mar Roxas to step in on the case.

Vargas' brother, Joseph, said the policemen at the city prosecutor's office last month.

The complaint said the policemen barged into the Vargas home in Barangay New Cabalan on Sept. 5 and arrested him and his wife, Jessalyn, purportedly for holding a pot session. The policemen demanded P200,000. Robert Ereneta, Inquirer Central Luzon

Hundreds turn up in rally to back Ako Bicol

By Mar S. Arguelles
Inquirer Southern Luzon

LEGAZPI CITY—Hundreds of supporters of the party-list group Ako Bicol (ABB) trooped to the streets here yesterday to denounce the decision of the Commission on Election (Comelec) to disqualify ABB to seek party-list elections.

More than 2,000 villagers, representing many of Bicol's poorest, walked the three kilometer stretch of Rizal Street from Quezon Avenue in the city's downtown to Peñaranda Park in Albay District.

The protesters, wearing yellow and black armbands, carried streamers with slogans supporting the ABB party-list as they paraded on Rizal Street.

ABB Rep. Rodel Batocabe said the protesters came from the six Bicol provinces and ended their activity with a prayer rally for Comelec to reconsider its decision and recognize ABB as a legitimate party-list group.

ABB garnered 1.3 million votes in the 2010 elections, giving it three seats in the House of Representatives.

Batocabe said the protesters are from different sectors in the region like youth, farmers, fisherfolk, women and other communities who had received help and land from, represented by ABB in the House.

Batocabe and other ABB Representatives Alfredo Garbin and Christopher Co denied the slap with the distribution of OIL (computer Dangerous lights) to 1,300 poor families in Tabaco City.

The group also distributed hand fans to several farmers' groups in Albay.

In a statement, Reps. Baka Bagunas and the Senate should investigate the Comelec decision to delist ABB since it would mean massive disenfranchisement of the group's constituents.

Batocabe, Senators Francis "Chiz" Escudero and Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan earlier criticized the Comelec ruling.

Albay Gov. Joey Salceda also said he was "dismayed" by the Comelec decision.

Garbin said groups seeking ABB's ouster are jealous of the massive support for the group.

"The Bicol region is the fourth poorest in terms of the number of poor families," said Garbin.

"The geographic persistence of poverty in the region can only be structural in character and could only be resolved by structural remedies, one of which is greater representation in Congress," Salceda earlier said.

HUNDREDS of supporters of Ako Bicol gather at the Peñaranda Park in Legazpi City to show their support to the party-list group.

Zambo Sur gov vows to stand in way of DENR chief at CA

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Not as long as Environment Secretary Ramon Paje fails to explain what a Special Geo Extraction Permit (Geep) is all about and what its legal basis is, Zamboanga del Sur Gov. Antonio Cerilles said he will do everything to block Paje's confirmation by the Commission on Appointments (CA).

"I will continue to block his appointment. I have always been consistent about this," said Cerilles, himself a former environment secretary.

Cerilles said on Wednesday, he went to the CA to oppose Paje's confirmation after he came instead of answering his queries on the Geep, Paje opted to ignore him. He said he wrote Paje twice but failed to get any response.

"He since did he had to write back and explain what this Geep is," said Cerilles.

In a phone interview, Paje pointed to his predecessor at the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Lito Atienza, as the one who signed Geeps.

Cerilles said he wanted to know what the permit was all about and whether it has legal basis because in Zamboanga del Sur, a mining group got that document from DENR.

He said the issuance of Geep to Lapanday Agricultural Development corporation in the area, but Paje said the Geep issued to Lapanday had lapsed in November last year.

"They went to the area and started their mining operation, encroaching in areas where there is an existing MPSA (mineral production sharing agreement). They never secured any [environmental compliance certificate] ECC and without any permit," he said.

Cerilles said Lapanday has been pursuing itself of an eco-tourism project

Que 2 down in Indian Open

ANGELO Que shot an eagle-and-3 combo and fired two more birdies to post a 4-under 68 Thursday for a share of 7th place with Jamie Donaldson of England and Gregory Havret of France at the start of the $1,250,000 Indian Open in Bangalore, according to Reuters. Que, who also birdied the second and eighth holes before a bogey on No. 11, then made a 14-foot Miguel Tabuena-esque stomper of remaining the halfway cut with an opening 70.

Meanwhile, Jack Pagunsan Bongabong, a 6-over 78 in the Bridgestone Open 2012 outside Chiba, Japan, is tied 12 shots behind leader Hiroyuki Fujita. —Antolin Oriel Serrano

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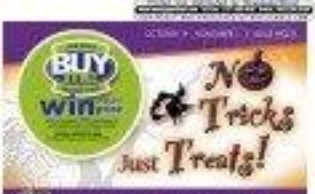
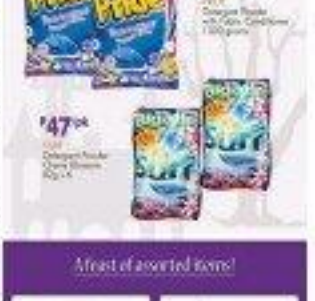




Cojuangco files bid for top POC post

By Jure Navarro

AFTER challengers in sight, Jose "Peping" Cojuangco Jr. yesterday threw his hat in the ring again in the Philippine Olympic Committee presidential derby.

POC election chair Victorino Chavez confirmed that Cojuangco filed his candidacy. Chavez, who said that presidential aspirants in the local Olympic elections on Nov. 30 should have regularly participated in the general assembly to avoid disqualification.

Citing provisions in the POC constitution and bylaws, Chavez said national sports association heads who refuse to run either as chair or president should be present during the association's 67th general assembly for two consecutive years.

"The presidential candidate must be an active member of the POC general assembly for the past two years," said Chavez. "In other words, he must have participated in the activities of the general assembly. How will you know what's happening if you're not there? If you have a representative in those meetings, it doesn't mean you're an active member."

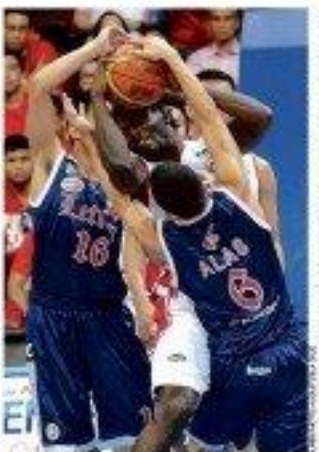
Chavez, who has five, former Gov. of La Salle and Valley Tolosa of Rowers as election panel deputies, said the requirement was also used during the polls in 2008, when Cojuangco earned a second term with a slim 21-19 win over shooting chief Joe Mananquil.

Several NSAs are reportedly asking sports patron Manny V. Pangilinan to challenge Cojuangco but the Manila-wing Basketball Philippines president and chair of the amateur boxing association of the Philippines has not made any commitment.

Other top NSA officials who will run with Cojuangco is the POC elections, scheduled at Alabang Country Club, are POC spokesperson and Taekwondo chief Joey Romualdez (first vice president), Jeff Tamayo of arnis (second VP), Julian Camacho of aeronautics (treasurer) and Cynthia Carreon of gymnastics (director).

POC chair Monico Puentevella also filed his candidacy to retain his post but said he would gladly drop out of the race if Cojuangco or Pangilinan decides to run instead.

Lions repulse Knights in Game 1; Cubs win



KEVIN Ahn and Kevin Racal of Letran battle up Ola Adeogun of San Beda under the basket in last night's game.

By Cedrill P. Tupas

GUARDS Shaun Ames and Ilpo Kaye shone in the second half as San Beda edged Letran, 82-80, last night and moved within a victory of making a record 17th senior title in the NCAA basketball tournament before a roaring crowd at Mall of Asia Arena.

Cunning and clever, Ames constantly found ways to break down Letran's defense, while Kaye came through with big shots as the Lions executed their mastery of the Knights, who lost twice in their series in the Bumb Jee the first time in five years.

San Beda can clinch the title tomorrow when the series moves to Emilio Aguinaldo Coliseum.

Putting up a tougher defense and stand in the second half, the defending champion San Beda Red Cubs earlier overwhelmed the San Sebastian Staglets, 68-51, and closed in on their 20th juniors crown.

Kevin Tolentino and Joshua Cuevas combined for 37 points, but it was Jerom Mercado who anchored the Red Cubs' interior to clinch the second ball that helped limit San Sebastian to just 21 points in the last two quarters.

The 6-foot-2 Mercado also finished with 13 points on top of 17 rebounds to earn his Kevin Bevana described as a "game-changing" performance.

Ames tallied 20 points, six seconds and three assists in a solid all-around outing, but it was Kaye's three-pointer with 1:05 remaining that gave the Lions the cushion they needed to put the Knights under pressure to execute near the end.

Playing limited minutes for most of the season, Kaye made the most out of his long exposure to lead a 13-0 blitz that erased a five-point deficit into a 47-40 lead.

Still, the Lions needed to come up with a defensive stop to close in the final play to prevent the Knights from scoring in the dwindling seconds.

Up to now, the Lions forced Knights' leading scorer Kevin Ahn into a turnover with two seconds left to preserve the victory, which marked San Beda's 15th straight against Letran since 2007.

"As expected it was very close," said San Beda coach Ronnie Magsanoc. "Sweet carried us in this game. We were not able to limit Kevin but he got limited in the second half."

Ahn finished with 19 points, but was held to only three in the second half, where Mark Cruz took up the midgets with seven of his 11 rainbows. But the depth of the San Beda squad again was land-wonders for the Lions, who drew 45 rebounds from their bench, compared to just eight from the Knights.

San Beda's Nigerian center Ola Adeogun was bounded by foul trouble for most of the game, but his back-to-back jumpers inside the paint that "sealed the Lions' lead to 69-57 before Kaye hit the game's biggest shot for 82-57.

The scores

First Game

SAN BEDA 82—Tolentino 20, Cuevas 17, Mercado 13, Ames 7, Adeogun 6, Javier 6, Racal 5, Mendoza 4, Cruz 3, Ilagan 2, Tamayo 2, Khan 2, Sweet 2, Rivero 0, Dionisio 0, Escalona 0.

SAN SEBASTIAN 51—Ahn 19, Nolet 8, Lumagui 6, Pascual 5, Cruz 4, Cabanero 3, Ramos 2, Cruz 2, Cabanero 2, Ramos 2, Cruz 2, Cabanero 2, Ramos 2, Cruz 2, Cabanero 2

Boosters take on Aces; Fajardo out

By Mikang R. Castillo

PETRON Blaze will be without top rookie pick Jaime Yllan Fajardo today when the Boosters, seeking to get back on the winning track, battle unbeaten Alaska in the PBA Philippine Cup eliminations at Smart Araneta Coliseum.

The 6-foot-10 Fajardo had surgery yesterday to ease the swelling on his navicular bone being accidentally elbowed by Mike Fingoy of Sta. Mig Coffee last week. He is expected to be out for at least four weeks.

But Petron remains favored to be 5:15 p.m. clash with the Aces, who last week also broke through and will be putting their newfound confidence to the test against the Boosters.

Meanwhile, Barangay Ginebra time is rebound from a shock loss to Meralco last Saturday when the Gin Kings battle Rondo Bull in the 7:30 p.m. game.

Ginebra was on two-game streak end but the Kings are stunned to turn back the Bolts, a win laden with veterans, with Dare ace coal gun jones.

Mark Caguioa and LA Tenorio, and rookies Chris Ellis and Keith Jensen are the players to watch for the Kings, 6th player Jens have last year but ranked in the top four during a preseason poll among coaches.

Fajardo will be sidelined after the ball-carrying return from Cebu sustained his first double-double in that loss to the Miners.

Centers Chris Ellis Rancik and Rabby Tiwa, stars, new, ask Jay Washington to stem the dot again for the Boosters against the Aces, who took two straight defeat before finally winning.

The Aces will again be led by Cyrus Baguio, JV Casio and Mac Steward, who fired 21 points off the bench the last time out. The two combined for 16 points in a 103-89 decision of Rondo Bull last Sunday.

Jimmy Alapag played despite a severe LBD that day

PETRON'S Jaime Mac Fajardo (right) will sit it out for four weeks after undergoing surgery yesterday. KENT MACDAL

Road Warriors still mean for Aspirants Cup

By Jasmin N. Papa

NLEX has assembled another all-star crew to the Road Warriors' bid for a fourth straight PBA D-League championship starting Oct. 21.

Reinforced by Alonzo stars Greg Slaughter and Victor Salva, the Road Warriors remain favored in the 12 team run in the Aspirants' Cup that also includes defending team Arellano University, Jose Rizal University and Perpetual.

"The field is very balanced this season," said NLEX coach Boyet Fernandez. "Every team is capable of winning.

"Our goal in this event is the previous conferences—to win the championship. But with a relatively new team, it will take a great effort to achieve our goal."

The Road Warriors lost seven key cogs to the pros, including Cliff Hodge, the MVP of the previous conference.

Slaughter, Salva and Quincy Ramsbang, fresh from the Blue Eagles' 89th UAAP title romp, will team up with other collegiate stars led by Lemuel Kevin Alas, Far Eastern University's MJ Garcia, San Sebastian's Ian Sangalang and Adamson's Eric Camson.

After the league formally opens with a 1 p.m. ceremony, Information kicks off its campaign against the Cagayan Valley Scorpions at 2 p.m., while Rosemoor Stars takes on Go-Teamus Llaullier at 4 p.m.

Completing the field are Blackwater Sports, Café France, Know Zit-Boost and last conference runner-up Big Chill.

Teams clash in a single round with the top two teams earning outright semifinal berths, while the next four squads fought in the quarterfinals.

PCSO Anniversary Race, PSA Cup up at San Lazaro

A DOUBLE of big, highly interesting events will be disputed when racing resumes this Sunday as part of the 75th anniversary celebration of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office at San Lazaro Leisure Park in Carmona, Cavite.

The two feature races are the PCSO Anniversary Race, headlined by incumbent Philippine Horse Movistar Machine Gun Rhinos, and the Philippine Sportswriters Association Cup featuring the elite colts led by Purple Ribbon of Stanmarie quintuplets Herman Esguerra.

Fifth veteran jockey Val Dilema leading Rhino, Dunple Ribbon is expected to cut out as favorite when he battles Alvin Diego (Jeffrey Bacaycay), Hi Money (Pablo Dilema), Pleasantly Perfect (Jonathan Hernandez), and Si Señor (Jeff Zarate) in the PSA Cup, a 1600-meter race held for the benefit of the country's oldest media association.

Six females—Jessel Sombrero on Real de Leon), Quaker's Hill (John Mike Garet), Flirty Beauty (M. Abrajan), Machine Gun Master (Pablo Dilema), Modern Heroine (Jeff Zarate and Raquel Lavia (Jesse Garet) make up the cast vying in the 1400-m PCSO race.

"We are thankful to the PCSO for helping the PSA in this worthy undertaking," said Star Brunch, president of the 69-year-old media association.

PCSO general manager Jose Ferdinand M. Rojas II expressed his gratitude to the PSA for its "vote to support to horse racing through the years."

Rojas, a former chair of the Philippine Racing Commission and forerunner relied on the "Bayang Karerista" to score in the racetrack and off-track betting stations "to support these races that will benefit a lot of our kababayan through the Pagcor Lotcha Philippines and PSA."

Big field in badminton tilt

A TOTAL of 772 names have signed up for this year's second leg of the MPIT Sports Foundation Inc.-Philippine Badminton Ranking Systems (PBARS) series which gets going on Oct. 27.

"We have extended the usual two entries to our year legs," said tournament director Nelson Amoroso. "This shows that what we're working for is bearing fruits."

The field will vie in 13 events, including the premier men's and women's Open singles, and the Under-19 singles categories.

The eliminations will be played at Powerstrech on Oct. 27 and 28 with the quarterfinals, semifinals and the finals slated at Bikkal Coliseum on Oct. 29 to 31.

Samson writes 30

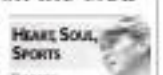
SETSUAN journalist Carlos L. Samson died of heart attack last Wednesday. He was 92.

Samson, who studied at Lyceum, started as a cartoonist for the Philippines News Agency and moved through the ranks, becoming the first sports editor of Bulletin. He also edited the sports page of the defunct Taliba newspaper in between. He also served in the Manila Bulletin and Tempo.

He later joined the government as a presidential consultant during the term of President Ramos. He also was the chairman of sports promotion and staged national fights of boxers and kickboxer Lucio Espinosa. He also served as special consultant of the Philippine Olympic Committee.

Zobel-based Ito death, he was writing a sports column for Bulletin then some tonight. His remains were consoled yesterday at Loyola Chapels in Guadalupe Makati, where viewing will be held up to Saturday.

Reflections on the UAAP



THE RECENTLY concluded UAAP season that saw the decades Blue Eagles reign supreme for the fifth straight time after losing the UST Tigers has once again brought the varsity league to a higher level of competition and entertainment.

A few thoughts:

One of the interesting things that occurred this year was Manny V. Pangilinan's sudden withdrawal of financial support for season.

The vacuum created by MVP's withdrawal may be easily filled by the Ateneo alumni, but the challenge will be how Ateneo can continue the professionalism that MVP introduced and brings into any sport that he gets involved in.

The level of officiating in the UAAP has to be upgraded. The usage of calls and non-calls on both ends has to stop. The referees should not determine the outcome of games. This should be left to the players and their coaches.

It will be good if the UAAP Board can seriously look into instituting this way it runs the league. Establishing a league more like the league commissioner will provide the continuity he will need to ensure the effectivity of the strategies he implemented.

Also, rather than giving the UAAP Board the power to vote a commissioner's decision, perhaps a committee of outsiders composed of basketball experts could be formed and tasked to review the fairness of the decision handed down by the commissioner.

And lastly, the Board should look into the entry of non-Filipinos into the league. If not monitored closely, it could stunt the development of the Filipino-Big Man that we need for the national team.

With the amount of enthusiasm the various alumni are pouring into their respective teams, one can be certain that the race for next year's championship will be more heighten and more intense.

We are all looking forward to next year's UAAP season. It couldn't come any if the hardcore artfests a color other than blue.

Please send comments to tawagit@yahoo.com.

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Pasay City Cockpit hosts 6-stag derby today

TOP sabungeros from the Visayas and Mindanao will challenge their Luzon counterparts in today's 8:00 Founder's Day Derby at Pasay City Cockpit.

Sen. Cielito Reyes of Agusan del Sur, last year's National Sabungan co-champion, will host the event cosponsored by Signature Complaint 2000. With a cash prize P2 million in stake, it is one of PCC's many derbies.

Also scheduled are the PSBRA 6-Stag Speedster on Oct. 23, Subic Pearl 6-Stag Derby on Oct. 28 and PFG Jubilee 6-Stag Derby on Oct. 30.

Meanwhile, Tony Lucero of Batangas won the the Dingo Big Event 6-Stag Derby, also held at PCC last Monday, after a 3-1 win-loss performance.

RACING 2012
BY TOP CHOICE
Ben Lucero LP

Banal, Thai both vow KO victory

By Roy Luarca

IT WILL be a race for the knockout win when Filipino Al Banal and Thai Pongkaew "Jet Singpo Gym" for the World Boxing Organization featherweight title tomorrow night at Mall of Asia Arena in Pasay City.

Poised by Pongkaew's pledge to knock him out in the sixth round during yesterday's press conference for Pinoy Pride XVII, Banal retorted: "I'll finish him off in five."

Both boxers have the capability and power to back up their words as the 12-round headliner of the fight card dubbed as the Philippines vs the World.

The 25-year-old Banal has knocked out 20 of his 26 victims in a 30-fight career while Pongkaew, a former Muay Thai opponent, isn't far behind with 27 knockouts in 42 wins.

Pongkaew will try to extend his mastery over Filipinos, having beaten all 13 he has faced so far.

Banal, who at 5-foot-4 enjoys a 2 1/2-inch height advantage, however, is eating to average his measurement and bag the crown which Mexico's Jorge Arce retained this year.

Getting the cue from Pongkaew, Mexican **Daniel Ruiz also predicted a knockout victory** over Filipino Boy "Knock Knock" Bautista in their 12-round crucial for the WBO International featherweight title.

PINOY Pride XVII boxers led by PW's Marlon Tapales, Michael Domingo, Jason Pagara, Boy "Knock Knock" Bautista and AJ Banal (first, 1st fifth from left) during yesterday's press conference. RON LUARCA

Unlike Banal, however, Bautista chose not to make a prediction.

"Let's just see on Saturday," said Bautista, who actually wields a better knockout percentage of 71.43 (20 of 28 wins, two losses) than Ruiz, who has stopped 19 of 27 victims against five losses and one draw down to 37-30-year.

The other 12-round fight in the undercard pits Filipino Jason Pagara against unbeaten Miguel "Hands of Stone" Antolor of Barbados for the WBO International light welter crown.

Antolor (17-0-1 with 9 KOs) drew attention to himself on Wednesday when he boasted during the PSA Forum that he is looking past Pagara (29-2 with 18 KOs) to handle Fighter of the Decade Manny Pacquiao.

Other matches in the card put up by Alvi Productions and ABS-CBN Sports pit veteran Michael Domingo against Ejandro Medel; **Alejandro Babiano and Marlon Tapales against** Bobtorres Gantuangco.

The official weigh-in will be held at noon today at MOA Music Hall.

Barrios, Henson at junior caging opening

SAMAHANG Basketbol ng Pilipinas executive director Sonny Barrios and sports analyst-columnist Quinito Henson will be the guest speakers at the opening of the Philippine Secondary Schools Basketball Championship on Oct. 27 at Filoil Flying V Arena in San Juan.

Both Barrios and Henson will speak before the country's top high school players in the newly established youth league whose main objective is to further polish the skills of local basketball's rising stars.

"This tournament is a perfect vehicle for our high school players before going to college," said Shangrila's Edward Tan, who initiated the noble project. "The is also our own way to support SBP in its effort to regain our status as Asia's No.1."

Our to provide the "venue" factor in the simple opening ceremony is the National University Pep Squad, which placed third in the recent UAAP cheer dance contest, and the Letran Band.

League chair Dr. Cecilio Pedro will deliver the opening remarks while vice-chair Cheryll Cruz will declare the tournament open.

Newly crowned UAAP champion Far Eastern U, reigning NCAA titlist San Beda and defending Metro Manila Team Limbasketball Association champion Cheng Kui Shek College have been installed as the teams to beat in the tournament.

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DID YOU KNOW

TODAY, Oct. 19, is [illegible] anniversary of the late Supreme Court Justice Jorge Bocobo. The first Filipino dean of the University of the Philippines College of Law, he was one of the principal authors of the Civil Code of the Philippines. The Bocobo Hall, which houses the UP Law Center, was named after him.

Erlinda Cardenas-Kapunan (Research)

Erap ribs the rich: Don't oust me again

Manila mayoral bet hits 'kidnap-fun, holdup-fun' under Lim

By Erika Sauler

DEPOSED President and now Manila mayoral candidate Joseph "Erap" Estrada on Thursday used his trademark "Erapisms" humor to send a message to one of the power blocs he had blamed for his ouster from Malacañang in 2001, lest they "do it again" and spoil his political comeback.

The former actor who had cultivated a popular image and who shamelessly won the presidency again in 2010 yesterday addressed an audience of businessmen, professionals and society's movers and shakers at upscale Forbes Park village in Makati City, as an invited speaker at a Rotary Club meeting at Manila Polo Club.

"Di kaya tayo'ng [ang] pero sa mahirap pero sa [ang] Forbes Park [Estrada is not just for the poor, but also for Forbes Park folk]," he said, drawing chuckles from the crowd.

"[But it's a significant and groundbreaking milestone in the history of the Rotary Club of Forbes Park. This will be the first time you will have an ex-convict as your guest speaker," said the 75-year-old Estrada who six years after his disgraceful exit from the Palace was convicted of plunder and granted presidential pardon by his successor, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

"And if any of you were part of the conspiracy to remove me as the duly-elected president of the Republic of the Philippines in the so-called Edsa Dos, I forgive you. But please don't do it again," Estrada said, who cited himself a supposed plot involving the Church, the Left and the elite for his fate.

Estrada, still a political kingpin with the machinery to battle the coalition led by the Liberal Party in next year's mid-term polls, a herself challenging the 40-year-old comebacker Alfredo Lim for the mayoralty in Manila.

He used the Rotary Club gathering to took a swipe at Lim's administration, at one point bemoaning traffic situation when he said the city had given a new meaning to the crossing's name from campaign slogan "It's more fun in the Philippines."

There's because of the rampant "kidnap-fun, holdup-fun and rape-fun" in Manila, he said.

The city has become "a despicable hotbed case of criminality, of constant flooding, of clogs drains, of clogging cops, of decaying facilities and infrastructure, of chaos and congestion," he added.

He said he planned to restore the value of real properties in Manila and go after delinquent taxpayers to raise city revenues, among others. "The people of the City of Manila will know where their taxes will go," he said.

'Woman in pink' who attacked UST student identified

By Erika Sauler

THREE more women have been charged in connection with the stabbing and wounding of a University of Santo Tomas (UST) student on the Sta. Rosa campus on University Belt Compus in Manila on Dec. 2.

Those charged with frustrated murder on Wednesday in the Manila Prosecutor's Office were Aquille Sarmiento, Danica Rolda and Danica Ortega.

Junior Lourdes Reyes told the police that she was first sprayed with tear gas by a woman dressed in pink before several others ganged up on her and stabbed her. She suffered six stab wounds, seven of them in the back.

Based on the footage taken by a closed circuit television camera installed on the PGE campus, the police identified the woman in pink as Sarmiento.

In fact, six people have linked to the attack on Reyes. First to be charged was Ms. Christine Acosta, a graduating nursing student of PGE. Two other women tagged in the stabbing have yet to be identified.

Reyes told the police that she had been invited by a friend to watch a film competition at PGE on Oct. 2. While in the hallway of the science building, a group of women approached her and her friend, sprayed them with tear gas and then stabbed Reyes, who was wearing a UST shirt.

SPO2 Gerardo Alding of the Manila Police District Sampaloc station, meanwhile, said that they have been forced to resort to other ways to identify the suspects as witnesses and those have refused to help them in their investigation.

With Reina Garcia-Lasala

Chinese duo, Pinoy contact fall in P12M 'shabu' bust

By Kristine Felmar Manguray

TWO SUSPECTED Chinese drug dealers and their alleged Filipino accomplice were arrested on Thursday in San Juan City in an undercover operation that yielded two kilos of methamphetamine hydrochloride or "shabu" with an estimated street value of P12 million.

The Filipino was apprehended by a duster when he showed up at the meeting that an undercover agent had arranged with the Chinese suspects around noon on Old Pilgrim Street in Greenhills.

In a press briefing, National Capital Region Police Office director Chief Supt. Leonardo Espina identified the Filipino suspect as Jetan Lagos Ores, 45, of Mabalacat, Pampanga province, and the Chinese nationals as Pitong Yang Dai, 30, and Dong Jin Chen, 29.

Senior Insp. Virgilio Saclolgio, head of the Eastern Police District's anti-illegal drugs unit, said that shortly before the suspects were met with the Chinese, his backup surveillance team saw Chua receiving a package from the two foreigners.

Chua was still present when the undercover agent joined the suspects in the parking area. The undercover cash marked money from the agent, the rest of the police team moved in for the arrest.

Chua was caught in possession of a kilo of shabu, while another kilo was found in the trolley's compartment where the Chinese's passports are also stored.

Saclolgio said Chua arrived in the same cargoplane with his live-in partner, Jocelyn Mora, 25, who stayed inside his Honda CRV during the transaction. The woman was not arrested but she remained under investigation, the officer said.

During questioning, Chua claimed he was only following orders from the Chinese to take the drugs to Angeles City, police said.

3 QC cops sacked over 'planted' drugs

Complainant is Manila barangay chair arrested for 'shabu'

By Jayrose T. Garol and Julie Bumbo

A POLICE station commander and two of his subordinates in Quezon City were relieved of their posts on allegations that they planted evidence against a Manila barangay chair who was arrested for alleged drug possession last week.

National Capital Region Police Office director Chief Supt. Leonardo Espina on Wednesday ordered the removal of Police Supt. Norberto Rebagay from the Galas substation, along with Senidoro Pelit, Wilfredo Salazar and PO2 Wilbert Munez, of the station's antinarcotics unit, based on a complaint filed by Eduardo Escudero, chair of Barangay 711, Malate, Manila.

Escudero alleged that on Oct. 5, he and a companion were at a food center in Quezon City when a group of men led by the Mateos arrested them without a warrant, took their money amounting to P30,000, and falsely charged them with possession of 0.5 gram of "shabu."

A resolution later issued by Quezon City assistant City Prosecutor Alexander Jurado ordered the release of Escudero and his companion, dismissing the legality of their arrest. There were "no pre-operational or post-operation reports and no coordination [was made] with the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency," it noted.

After his release, Escudero sought the help of Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim, who then sicced Espina about the matter on Wednesday.

Speaking to reporters on Thursday, a visibly irked Espina said: "I will hold accountable the misdeeds of my subordinates."

Espina ordered Rebagay and the Mateos brothers placed under the Regional Personnel Holding Unit (RPHU) of the Police Unit in Camp Bagong Diwa, Taguig City, pending an investigation of Escudero's complaint.

Reacted for comment, Rebagay dismissed the complaint as mere "harassment and fishing/ intimidating," saying: "I will fight to clear my name. My children and family's honor is on the line."

"I don't know that barangay chair. There is no reason to take his reputation just like that," he said.

Rebagay maintained that Escudero had participated in illegal drug activities

Unknown to most Americans, quality lapses bedevil US drugmakers

By Katie Thomas

PEORIA, Ill. Running in a suit of hospital scrubs, Mary Dejonckheere crisscrosses her office like a running back, dodging employees and hurdling boxes as she barks out instructions into a headset.

Ms. Dejonckheere is the president of Akorn, a drug company that has grown rapidly by buying other companies that make generic versions of brand-name medicines. Akorn's factories produce a wide variety of products, from antibiotics to treatments for glaucoma.

Akorn has been a success story in a business that is not known for them. Its sales have risen more than 20 percent a year for the last five years, and its profit margins are enviable. Its stock price has risen more than 1,000 percent since 2009.

But Akorn's success has been overshadowed by a string of problems at its factories. Since 2010, the company has had to recall dozens of drugs, including some that were made in a plant in Somerset, N.J., that was shut down by the Food and Drug Administration in 2011 after inspectors found a host of problems, including evidence that employees were not properly cleaning equipment to prevent contamination.

Akorn is not the only drug company to have had problems with the F.D.A. Over the last two years, the agency has issued a number of reports about poor conditions at plants that make generic drugs, and it has stepped up its inspections of foreign factories that produce medicines sold in the United States.

Many of the problems have led to shortages of crucial medicines, including some that are used in emergency rooms and intensive care units. Last year, there were 178 drug shortages, up from 56 in 2005, according to the University of Utah drug information service.

Akorn's problems have been particularly severe. Since 2010, the company has had to recall more than 20 drugs, including a version of the blood thinner heparin that was linked to a contamination scare that killed 81 people in 2008. Akorn has also had to destroy thousands of bottles of drugs that were made in the Somerset plant.

Akorn's troubles have come at a time when the F.D.A. has been under pressure from Congress to improve the safety of the drug supply. Lawmakers have criticized the agency for its inspection of a plant in India that was linked to a deadly outbreak of meningitis in 2012, and for its failure to prevent a shortage of a drug used to treat cancer in children.

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Colombians talk anew in hopes of ending war

PAKISTANI students sing as they hold pictures of 14-year-old schoolgirl Malala Yousafzai, who was shot on Tuesday by the Taliban for speaking out in support of education for women. AP

Attacker of Pakistan schoolgirl was captured, released in 2009

ISLAMABAD — The alleged organizer of the Taliban shooting of a Pakistani schoolgirl was captured during a 2009 military offensive against the Swat Valley Taliban group but released after three months, two senior officials told Reuters.

They identified the man who planned the attack on 14-year-old Malala Yousafzai only as Attaullah, and said he was one of the two gunmen who shot her on a school bus this month in the Swat Valley, southwest of Islamabad.

Believed to be in his 30s, Attaullah is on the run and may have fled to neighboring Afghanistan, they said. He organized the attack on the orders of one of the Taliban's most feared commanders, Maulana Fazlullah, officials said.

Caitlin say Pakistan's low conviction rate of militants, and its reluctance to execute convicted militants, is one reason why extremism has spread in the South Asian nation.

The attack on Yousafzai, an advocate of education for girls, has drawn widespread condemnation and raised fresh questions about United States-style Obama's commitment to fighting militancy in the region.

Doctors treating her in Britain have said Yousafzai, a symbol of resistance to Taliban efforts to deprive girls of education, has every chance of making a "good recovery". After being shot in the head.

The Taliban have said they attacked her because she spoke out against the group and praised U.S. President Barack Obama.

The two officials said Attaullah was detained by security forces after a 2009 Pakistani military campaign pushed the Taliban out of the Swat Valley.

"He spent three months in the custody of security forces but was freed after no evidence [of wrongdoing] was found," one official said.

The second source, a senior security official, said authorities had gathered enough evidence to arrest Attaullah after sending his house in the Swat Valley, a former tourist attraction.

If Attaullah is in Afghanistan, finding him would be difficult. Nearly a decade after the most dangerous militants have operated in the remote, ethnic Pashtun border area for years, a forbidding area hard for security forces to reach.

The officials said Pakistani security forces were trying other ways to bring him to justice.

"His mother and two brothers were taken into custody by the Swat police to question," said the second senior official. "Also two other close relatives of Attaullah have been taken into custody because we heard he spent the night in their house after his escape from Swat."

Reuters

Russia moves to prosecute anti-Putin protest leader

UDALTSOV

MOSCOW — Russian prosecutors began criminal proceedings against a prominent leader of protests against President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday, setting a documentary on a pro-Kremlin TV channel showed explosives Sergei Udaltsov had plotted more disorder.

Government critics and civil rights groups say the Kremlin is carrying out a concerted clampdown on dissent by exerting legal pressure to try to sideline activists who have led the biggest opposition campaign in Putin's nearly 12-year hang rule, spurred by allegations of widespread election fraud.

Law enforcement officials raided Udaltsov's Moscow apartment on Wednesday, and state television showed him being taken away on the question-ing by a half a dozen officers in black balaclavas.

"I have committed no crime. My only crime is opposing the regime," Udaltsov told Web-24 in a recorded swap.

Police were also searching the homes of two associates facing the same charges, which carry a jail sentence of up to 10 years. Udaltsov was released but ordered not to leave Moscow.

His criminal case hinged on allegations aired in a documentary on NTV television network that he received money and orders from an ally of Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili, an adversary of Moscow, to cause unrest in Russia.

Reuters

Bangladeshi arrested in New York Fed bomb plot

NEW YORK — A Bangladeshi man with alleged al-Qaeda links was arrested on Wednesday in New York on charges of trying to use a 1,000 pound bomb to destroy the city's Federal Reserve building.

Quazi Mohammed Rezwanul Ahsan Nafis, 21, was arrested in Manhattan's financial district on a terror charge after he thought was a live bomb, but was actually a dummy provided in a sting operation, federal prosecutors in Brooklyn said.

Nafis travelled to the United States in January 2012 "for the purpose of conducting a terrorist attack on U.S. soil," the federal prosecutor's office in Brooklyn said in a statement.

Nafis, who reported having contacts with people in Pakistan and Yemen, was arrested on Wednesday

The WORLD

Editor Lawrence B. Greco

Obama, Romney keep up attacks after debate

ATHENS, Ohio—President Barack Obama and Mitt Romney retreated to different corners of the electoral ring on Wednesday, a day after going toe-to-toe on Long Island. But both kept flinging taunts at each other, as they girded for a final debate on Monday and the increasingly pugilistic closing rounds of the election campaign.

At college campuses here and in Iowa, an energized Obama declared that Romney's tax proposals did not add up, his job plan would not create jobs and his deficit-reduction proposals would only add to the nation's deficit.

"Everybody here's heard of the New Deal; you've heard of the Fair Deal, you've heard of the Square Deal," Obama said, before deploying a jab he used against Romney in the debate. "Mitt Romney is trying to sell you a shoddy deal."

Romney, speaking an hour later in Chesapeake, Virginia, ridiculed Obama's explanation that gasoline prices were tied to the health of the economy, saying it was the "most classic of the nonanswers of the night."

"Don't you think that it's time for him to finally put together a vision of what he'd do in the next four years if he were elected?" Romney said. "I mean, he's got to come up with that over the weekend because there is one debate left, on Monday."

Not Obama, however, it was a day to start parsing his fedora performance in the first debate behind him, visibly pumped up by his showing Tuesday the president delighted in skewering not just his opponent's proposals but his use of words—notably Romney's lackadaisical rallitering "blankets full of women" to cheerfully his ultimate as governor of Massachusetts.

"We don't have to collect a bunch of binders to find qualified, talented, driven women, willing to learn and reach to those fields right now," Obama said.

Romney made no mention of the administration's handling of the attack on the United States mission in Benghazi, Libya—an issue with which he had hoped to score points during the face-off at Hofstra University but which ended up supplying one of his most awkward moments after a dispute over whether Obama had labeled it an act of terror.

Obama poked fun at the stark differences between his first and second debates.

"I'm still trying to figure out how to get the hang of this thing—debating," he said with a grin. "We'll keep on improving as time goes on."

The president's visit to Iowa was part of the campaign's aggressive early-voting effort. At Cornell College in Mount Vernon, Iowa, a satellite voting site was set up at a library for students to vote after his speech.

The president's fiery debate performance lifted the spirits of his supporters in Iowa, some of whom had grown worried after his first encounter with Romney.

"We had so much energy and were just so much better," said Wendy Willits, 47, of Lisbon, Iowa. "It was what I expected to see at the first debate."

For Obama's aides, there was more relief than exuberance. They said the debate had reset the race to where they expected it to be: the presidential holding a narrow lead in enough battleground states that they hope will let him eke out victory over Romney.

David Plouffe, one of Obama's chief strategists, told reporters that after the Denver debate, Romney had closed the polling gap in several of those states. But he believed he did so with Republicans leaning independent voters would have recalled anyway although perhaps not so fast.

Polls in September that showed Obama with a lead of eight or more percentage points in Ohio and other states were a "harmony," Plouffe said. The president's margins of victory in battleground states were going to be "1, 2, 3, 4 points at most."

New York Times News Service

Bite into the healthier crunch of Jack 'n Jill Magic Chips

Whose lo look rite aept to snack, John Lloyd reaches for Magic Chips.

Uruguay takes historic step to legalize abortion

MONTEVIDEO, Uruguay—Uruguay's Senate voted to legalize first-trimester abortions for all women on Wednesday in a groundbreaking measure that some said is an easy strings attached it left neither side in the latest debate completely satisfied.

Senators voted 17-14 to back the measure, which has already passed the lower house, and President José Mujica was expected to quickly sign it into law.

The legislators establishes that the public health care system must guarantee every woman the freedom to decide without pressure whether or not to have an abortion.

That's a big step for Latin America, where only Cuba grants all women the right to abortion. But it comes with so many conditions that both sides wonder how Uruguay will keep this promise.

Among other things, a clear declaration that "every adult woman has the right to decide whether or not her pregnancy during the first 12 weeks of gestation" was dropped in order to get enough votes for passage. In its place, lawmakers agreed to 18 pages of fine print intended to bring about the same results. AP

THE PAINTING "La Liseuse au Bleu et Jaune" by Henri Matisse, one of valuable paintings stolen during a break-in at Rotterdam's Kunsthal museum on Oct. 16.

Huge Dutch art heist was 'smash and grab'

AMSTERDAM—In Hollywood movies, heavy usually feature criminals whose meticulous planning and high-tech equipment are used to avoid detection. But thieves who snatched seven paintings by Picasso, Matisse and Monet worth millions from a gallery in Rotterdam appear to have taken a less glamorous approach, relying mostly on speed and brute force.

In other words, the theft from the Kunsthal exhibition on avant-garde art was more "smash and grab" than "Ocean's 11."

Dutch police said on Wednesday they had no suspects in the case, the largest art heist in the country for more than a decade, though an appeal to witnesses had produced more than a dozen tips for investigators to follow up.

Museum director Emily Sarsuk rejected criticism of the museum's safeguards. Speaking at a news conference Tuesday morning, she defended Kunsthal's security as "state of the art" and noted that insurance companies had agreed to insure the exhibitions.

And yet the thieves got away. The paintings they took are estimated to be worth roughly EUR50 million (US$64 million).

The theft raises questions about whether security at the Kunsthal museum, which was designed by renowned Dutch architect Rem Koolhaas, was sufficient to protect paintings worth millions of dollars each. Experts said features of the building's design and location itself may have been what initially attracted criminals.

"Speaking as a museum-goer, it's fantastic," museum security expert Tim Cornelis said. "Speaking as a security expert, it's a total nightmare."

The gallery is located inside a large road that leads to a roundabout, less than a mile away, linking to highway heading in three directions. The display space where the paintings once hung is a large square area, at ground level, visible from outside through glass walls.

Though police and the museum have declined to discuss some issues that might help thieves or other thieves, the main details of what happened are clear.

The break-in occurred at around 5 a.m., Tuesday police say, after someone triggered an alarm.

Investigators have focused on an emergency exit behind the building. The exit leads directly to the main exhibition hall, with paintings hung just a few yards away. The cracks can still be seen in the glass behind the building leading away from the exit. Police could be seen Tuesday dusting the exit for fingerprints and taking samples of the raw prints.

The paintings had been grabbed violently from the walls, leaving only white spaces and hanging wires dangling behind.

Officers were on the scene within five minutes of the alarm being triggered, according to museum director Sarsuk, but the thieves were already gone.

Police spokesman Henk van der Velde said on Wednesday the investigation is proceeding, though the getaway car has not been found and there are no suspects.

Agents were reviewing video tapes from nearby cameras.

It is unknown what will happen with the paintings if the thieves are not caught.

The thieves may "wake up and realize they can't sell the paintings easily," said Chris Marinello, of the Art Loss registry.

But they may also sell them on the black market for a fraction of their true value, or ask insurers for money in exchange for returning them.

Cressen said the museum was at fault for relying on cameras and motion detectors, rather than human guards. Having guards on site is costly, and they would be insured not to confront robbers during a break-in anyway. AP

3 children killed in Afghan strike

KABUL, Afghanistan—The international military coalition in Afghanistan has confirmed that three children were killed in a roadside artillery strike in Helmand province, expressing regret over the deaths and calling them "tragic," but also raising the possibility that the Taliban had been using the children to place roadside bombs for them.

The artillery strike occurred on Sunday afternoon after several insurgents showed people lying beside on a road frequently used by military vehicles in Sisara District, according to an official with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization International Security Assistance Force, commonly referred to as International Security Assistance Force. The insurgents first shouted to the people to get off the road, with two then moving away, presumably to act as an "early warning" for those digging the holes for the bombs so they could remove them, the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss military operational details. AFP/NS

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BUSINESS

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Ayala water unit expands footprint in Asia

By Ryan T. Olchondra

MANILA Water Company Inc., a unit of the Ayala group, will further expand its presence in Asia, starting with its acquisition of a majority stake in Jakarta's water supply concessionaire.

Manila Water to acquire control of Indonesian utility

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, Manila Water said it had signed a share purchase agreement with Indonesia's Saratoga Investama to acquire the latter's 51-percent equity in PT Paksi Satriamakmur Jaya (Paksi).

Paksi has been operating the water supply concession contract of Western Jakarta since 1997 under a 25-year deal with the government-owned PAM Jaya.

Paksi has a total water supply of more than 700 million liters per day, and 5,300 kilometers of pipe network," Manila Water said.

But the Philippine company noted that the acquisition is subject to "certain government and regulatory approvals" in Indonesia.

There was also "other conditions precedent" that must be fulfilled, it added.

Manila Water has been expanding both here and abroad.

In July, Manila Water announced it would acquire a 47.35-percent stake in Vietnam's Kinh Dong Saigon Supply Joint Stock Co., which has a bulk water supply contract with Saigon Water Corp. Vietnam's Kinh Dong Water Supply will also open a water treatment plant later this year.

The acquisition allowed Manila Water to widen its presence in Vietnam, which the Ayala group has identified as one of the high growth areas for infrastructure.

Article B7

INDICATORS

PESO-DOLLAR RATE
Oct. 18, 2012
41.320

STOCK MARKET
Oct. 18, 2012
2.44

Share prices drop

AFTER a two-day run-up, the main share index yesterday slightly fell as investors locked up gains.

The Philippine Stock Exchange dipped by 2.44 points, or 0.04 percent, to finish at 5,826.84, weighed down by profit-taking on the financial, industrial and mining-oil counters. Elsewhere in the region, trading was subdued on China's third-quarter growth and expectations alongside more positive US housing data.

A big catalyst in the region was China's much-awaited third-quarter gross domestic product report. It came in at 7.4 percent.

SHARE B7

Philex plugs leaking Padcal mine tunnel

By Dianne L. Lucas

PHILEX Mining Corp. yesterday said that it completed the concrete plugging of the tunnel at its Padcal Mine, in Benguet, which had leaked wastewater and sediments into the nearby Ilubog Creek and the Agno River at the height of a typhoon two months ago.

According to an official of the country's largest mining firm, the company will now focus on the design and construction of a spillway that is part of the rehabilitation of its tailings pond, where waste products from its mining operations are collected.

"Today, we have successfully plugged our tailings pond's Tunnel A, and we are now heading into concurrent as the making of a spillway to replace the pond-tock system for draining water from the pond," Philex senior vice president for corporate affairs Michael Toledo said in a statement.

The leaks—the first of two such incidents at the company due to excessive rains brought on by typhoons Pedring and Quiel—forced Philex to shut its only operating gold and copper mine for the rest of the year, and caused the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to impose a P1-billion fine on the mining firm.

Philex is contesting the penalty saying the wastewater spillage was due to force majeure, or something beyond their control.

According to Toledo, Philex personnel completed the pouring of cement measuring 61 meters long into the 3-meter high and 3-meter wide tunnel yesterday afternoon. He described it as the "final move" to shut off the passageway of water and sediment from the tailings pond.

The catchment tunnel was the source of the wastewater discharged from a portal, which the firm had also condemned

PHILEX, B7

Quezon City Reimagined by Century Properties

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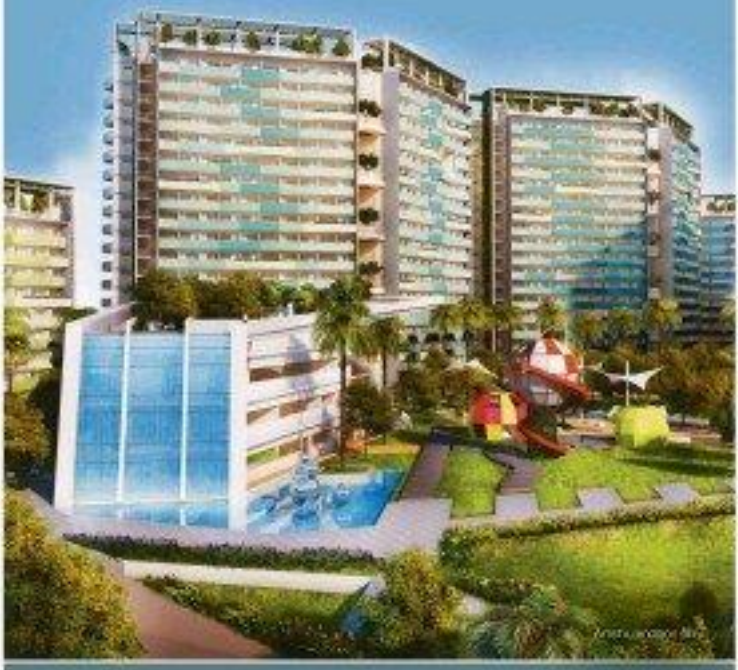

Eight modern residential towers rise amidst a sprawling multi-hectare masterplan that brings together spectacular water features and pools, awe-inspiring landscapes and vegetation, and an iconic clubhouse that houses all of a resident's desires and pursuits.

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CENTURY

Yehey! sizzles in debut

Robinsons Land to build mall in Malabon

By Doris C. Dumlao

GOKONGWEI-LED Robinsons Land Corp. will build a retail center in Malabon City—its 37th shopping mall in the Philippines—which will open by December next year.

The planned two-story Robinsons Town Mall in Malabon will rise on a 23,000-square-meter lot along Gov. Pascual corner Crispulo Street in Barangay Tinajeros. It will have a gross floor area of 17,184.85 square meters, RLC said in a statement.

"Malabon is one of the most highly populated areas in Metro Manila with more than 350,000 residents. It is home to many small and medium enterprises, including those located in Bulacan, Caloocan, Navotas and Valenzuela and the relatively few malls in Malabon, we believe there is an opportunity to put up a community mall that will address the basic needs of residents not just of Malabon but even of Navotas and parts of Valenzuela and Caloocan," said RLC general manager for commercial center Arlene Magtibay.

The City of Malabon has originally been regarded as traditional fishing village. In the past years, however, it has seen the rise of various businesses and industries.

"Being the Robinsons Town Mall in Our strategic intersection will make it so much more convenient and comfortable for people living within the vicinity to do their basic shopping," Magtibay said. "Since the location is easily accessible via public transportation, residents can walk directly to utilize most of the amenities, payday the homebound area, go to the atm and even deal to dollars. The mall's proximity will definitely save them time and money."

Upon completion, Robinsons Town Mall is expected to house more than 150 retail...

Doris C. Dumlao

SHARES OF Yehey! Corp. surged by 170 percent on the Internet advertising firm's stock trading debut yesterday, lifted by rosy prospects for digital marketing and the upbeat global numbers.

Within the next five years, Yehey! sees its P150-million-in-value stock as a growing number of companies shift a bigger chunk of their advertising budget to the digital space. Edmundo Reyes Jr., president of parent firm Heritage Equities, said in a briefing.

In 2011, ads amounted to P64 million, which the company expects to exceed by 6 percent this year.

Although it listed by way of securities..., it suffered no initial public offering. 53 percent of Yehey!'s stock was traded by the end...

Yehey! fixed 270 million common shares at the second floor of the Philippine Stock Exchange at an initial price of P1 per share—the same as the par value. Shares climbed on the firm's listing day, hitting as high as P4.70 in the morning trade before closing at P2.70 per share. About P56.7 million worth of Yehey! shares changed hands on the first day.

"Yehey! investors are reliable supporters who think in a big picture," said Yehey! Chairman Andrew Gotianun Jr. Yehey! helps that constant news is positive—such as China's gross domestic product growth hitting a three-year low and positive US housing data."

"We see a good future for the company [Yehey!]. There's a bright future there," said Wilson Sy, a dealer for ATRapid.

Investor jitters have risen in the Philippines as evidenced as the 30 percent, or from only 10-17 percent in 2006.

Sy, a stock market veteran, said Yehey!'s strong debut could also be attributed to the bullish mood on investments globally. With the global economy showing some encouraging, for instance, "there's so much money going around."

The local listmen firm is also debuting at a time that the technology sector was making a strong comeback in the global markets, long after the bursting of the dot-com bubble in early 2000. Among the world's most valuable companies now are technology firms such as Apple and Microsoft.

Asked whether Gotianun was keeping Yehey! for the long haul or eventually getting a new investor, he said: "Who knows the emergen. Digital marketing is just a small component of the big advertising industry. We're open to 25% (joint ventures) with big marketing/advertising companies in the world."

Of the P64 million total marketing budget spent on media, only 3.2 percent goes to digital marketing at present, suggesting a huge room for growth, especially as some big regional companies were not able so much as to spend P1 million for advertising budget for the digital space.

About 80 percent of Yehey!'s business comes from digital marketing while the rest comes from other media and advertising services. For instance, Yehey! said 30% of its sales is for "inventory" marketing that's basically brand campaigns to mall-goers over SMs that Yehey! is in charging rights.

Illegal investment scheme

LAST WEEK, the Securities and Exchange Commission issued a cease and desist order to Amore Futures Group Phils., Inc., to stop offering, soliciting or selling unregistered securities to the public.

Amore's primary corporate purpose is to buy, sell, distribute and market "gold, oil, cocoa, coconut oil, mungcorn, nickel, tar and any agricultural products."

While not currently engaged in that business, the company solicited investments from residents of Pagadian City and other areas in the Visayas and Mindanao, an activity which it has no authority to engage in.

Under existing regulations, no securities can be offered for sale or sold to the public unless there has been granted a secondary license by the SEC for that purpose.

There are other rules enforced to stability, management integrity and legitimacy of purpose that should be complied with by a company before there is come a given. The SEC has to make sure the investing public is protected from unscrupulous issuers of securities.

Amore offered to pay its investors interest ranging from 15 percent to 40 percent after 30 to 90 days, depending on the amount invested. The more you make more walking through the issuance of postdated checks covering the principal and interest payable.

Profits

The company made the pitch that it was affiliated with a big Malaysian-based financial company and that the investments were connected to a defunct but once lucrative racetrack in profitable commodity futures trading in Malaysia.

Not surprisingly with the prevailing low trading investment rates, the investment offer attracted hundreds of businessmen, professionals, retirees and ordinary folks who wanted to get more value for their money. By word of mouth, Amore's "investment" spread like wildfire in Pagadian City and its environs.

From the time Amore was registered with the SEC in June this year to the present, the company by its own admission (which is one source only), was able to secure P244 million in investments. But if that's accepts not to be believed, the amount could go as high as P2 billion.

Understandably, the prospect of earning big profits without breaking a sweat encouraged scores of gullible Amore retirees into investing their entire savings in the company's securities.

Some enterprising people were reported to have even borrowed money from lending or financing companies to 5 percent yearly interest and invested the borrowed money in the scheme.

The investments buy even his senior level government officials who succumbed to easy money. Some provincial officials looked at the promised investment rates as an opportunity to increase their campaign coffers.

Authorization

The enterprise, Amore principals "investment agreement/Profit Sharing" document that the enterprise asked its investors to sign after getting their money should have raised them bells about the viability of the so-called investment.

The investment agreement looking document states that the company received a specific sum of money and that it has been authorized by the client investor to invest the money on his behalf in commodity trading, subject to the prospects of the agreement.

To give its sum of legitimacy on the transactions, the company accepted investments through banks and made arrangements for the promised interest to be credited directly to the bank accounts of the investors.

But the so-called profits (read) up and periodically pocked with such other fees given to Amore's scruples.

From all indications, considering the low level of profitability of commodities trading in Malaysia and the global contraction of interest rates due to the financial problem, that some European countries are presently going through, Amore's investment scheme is a fraud or a pyramiding scheme.

The promised interest rates can be sustained only by a continuous inflow of investments. The latest investments are used to pay for whatever interests have been promised the older investors.

Without the issuance of additional funds, or the investors start demanding their principal shortly after the whole scheme collapses.

Precaution

The problem with investing or putting a stop to investment scheme is no one will come out in the open to complain as long as the promised returns are being paid, even if they are sometimes delayed.

Running on the scheme could be the falling the goose that lays the golden eggs. By the time the losers of the investor is "arrested" that he has future chances of recovering his principal by way of the interest payments and, if he's lucky, even something extra from any additional payments.

When an investment scam matures, some of the investors will be the promoters of the interest or principal, the promoters rules usually fill in favor of investors who are either politically influential, can legally arrest people or are malicious and scary characters.

Through their powers of subpoena, the Senate and the House of Representatives can summon officials of the government to congressional hearings in aid of legislation. Congressmen can also call on the heads of government agencies to appear in their committee hearings in aid of legislation.

They have the power to cite for contempt and order the arrest of those who refuse to appear before them without valid reasons.

Congressmen can also ask questions in aid of legislation which the executive officials cannot refuse to answer on the ground of executive privilege.

Executive privilege is the power of the President to withhold information from the Congress, the courts, and ultimately the people.

It is usually justified as necessary to the candid discussion of issues within the executive branch, and is considered an implied power of the presidency.

The doctrine of executive privilege is not absolute. It is subject to limitations.

Congress can override executive privilege by a two-thirds vote of both houses, if it believes the information sought is critical to the conduct of its legislative duties.

The courts may review executive claims of privilege, and compel release of information if the need for it outweighs the need for confidentiality.

The Supreme Court has ruled that executive privilege may be claimed only on a case-by-case basis, with the burden placed on the government to show that compelling reasons exist for the privilege in each case.

Furthermore, executive privilege cannot be used to cover up crimes or to prevent embarrassment to officials.

Raoul J. Fitzkelberg

Philweb taking in new investors

By Paolo G. Montecillo

CAMBRIDGE-based PhilWeb Corp. acted to enhance the terms of new investors that would inject fresh cash into the company that soon is earning records high levels this year.

In a disclosure, the company said its fully-owned subsidiary, PhilWeb Online Corp. (POC), had tapped BDO AC and Religare Capital Markets to facilitate Hong Kong investor to place their shares for USD5 million shares in the planned listing.

The shares were priced at P1/each, bringing the total value of the block to P206 billion. The shares to be sold by POC refer to the 27 percent stake in PhilWeb that POC received the majority buyout from, sources said.

The P207 was announced as it was listed from PhilWeb in July. The sell by done in less 8 months of 90,467,944 shares each at P2.79 per share, for a total of P4.29 billion.

The first batch of the shares was acquired by PhilWeb in July. The responsibility to buy back the over three blocks of shares was transferred to POC, the company announced on Thursday.

"POC, on behalf of PhilWeb, acted

PHILWEB B3

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

CURRENCIES

Country	Unit	Peso Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	43.5000	1.0000	43.500
Japan	Yen	0.5500	0.0126	79.091
United Kingdom	Pound	69.7500	1.6034	43.500
Hong Kong	Dollar	5.6100	0.1290	5.744
Switzerland	Franc	47.0000	1.0805	43.500
Canada	Dollar	44.1000	1.0138	43.500
Singapore	Dollar	34.9000	0.8023	43.500
Australia	Dollar	45.2000	1.0391	43.500
Denmark	Krone	7.8000	0.1793	43.500
Sweden	Krona	6.6000	0.1517	43.500
Norway	Krone	7.5000	0.1724	43.500
Saudi Arabia	Riyal	11.6000	0.2667	43.500
Kuwait	Dinar	151.0000	3.4713	43.500
Bahrain	Dinar	115.0000	2.6437	43.500
Qatar	Riyal	11.9000	0.2736	43.500
Thailand	Baht	1.4000	0.0322	43.500
UAE	Dirham	11.8000	0.2713	43.500
Iran	Rial	0.0000	0.0000	43.500
Korea	Won	0.0000	0.0000	43.500
China	Yuan	0.0000	0.0000	43.500
Taiwan	Dollar	0.0000	0.0000	43.500
Brunei	Dollar	0.0000	0.0000	43.500
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.0000	0.0000	43.500
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.0000	0.0000	43.500
New Zealand	Dollar	0.0000	0.0000	43.500
Vietnam	Dong	0.0000	0.0000	43.500
Europe	Euro	0.0000	0.0000	43.500

Philweb . . .

From page B2

ended the acquisition of the second tranche of shares from AVLOT," the disclosure said. "Under the share purchase agreement, the acquisition of the second tranche of shares was scheduled to be made on Dec. 12," it said.

"The sale will be consistent w the facilitation of the exchange investment approval for the special block sale is obtained," the company said.

PCC said the sale of the shares to qualified bidder would be transacted at the local bourse as soon as the closing of the "aforementioned transactions of PCC with the PhilSSS and ePLDT (are) completed."

PCC said it was expecting to make a profit from the sale of the shares that ePLDT used to own in the now-terminated share-swap agreement approved in April.

www.regus.com.ph 02 451 8243

An unrivalled gateway to the rest of the metropolis

By Charina E. Suizo

With over forty storeys each, the three towers of Sunkrat Avenues will stand like sentinels overlooking the busy thoroughfare of F. Rodriguez Avenue in Quezon City.

In fact, it was the location on a hill and the fact that it will be right across Trinity University of Asia and St. Luke's Medical Center that will make Sunkrat Avenues very valuable to property buyers.

"Because of its advantageous location on F. Rodriguez Avenue, Sunkrat Avenues (which is Indonesian for "love") will serve as a gateway. It's just a few steps away from the executive country subdivision nestled among one of the best healthcare institutions in the world. For those with children studying, F. Rodriguez Avenue hosts many excellent colleges and universities as well as prestigious one-stop section to other top educational institutions along the Commonwealth Avenue or along the Katipunan Avenue area," described Atty. Ramiven Pelingon, president of Sunkrat Properties, a subsidiary of Megaworld Corp.

He added that being located very near Makati's core, Sunkrat Avenues's strategic address enables Luzon residents of this affordable upscale community to bypass EDSA and reach Makati CBD in no time. "Via Gregorio Araneta and Quezon Avenues or via Tomas Morato and Timog Avenues, one could easily reach Ortigas Center's business district and its many shopping centers. Indeed, from Sunkrat Avenues, one could practically go anywhere," assured Pelingon.

Green haven

Aside from the property's seamless accessibility to key destinations in the metro and state-of-the-art facilities and amenities, future residents of Sunkrat Avenues would also discover that within the development's 7,685 sq.m. property lies a green haven.

Sunkrat Avenues is Sunkrat Properties' first development that will integrate vertical dwellings into the building's structure.

"We combined the concept of just designing modern Asian inspired high-rise towers. Sunkrat decided to incorporate gardens that are three stories high and located several floors up—on the 10th and on the 29th level.

"The sun rated buyers may will be able to enjoy the view of trees and lush garden just outside their residence. This will not only break the usual views that one would enjoy while living several floors above the ground but these sky gardens also serve as an important design tool for such eco-friendly buildings that would help both conserve and reduce energy consumption," explained Pelingon.

Different world

"We positioned the three towers in such a way that its resident will not be bothered by the noise coming from the street. It would be a different world," promised Pelingon.

He shared that the 31-storey Tower 1 which will be the first to rise will offer two basement parking floors as well as commercial outlets located on the ground level.

"But what is more remarkable is what we are planning to do with the 22-storey Tower 2 and 24-storey Tower 3. We strategically positioned the two buildings so that they surround Sunkrat Avenue's amenities, which are all located on the 8th level," said Pelingon.

Because Towers 2 and 3 encircle the amenities area, those living in the inner units of these two buildings and even those enjoying morning or late afternoon warm will be protected from harsh sunlight.

Located on the 8th level amenities will be a 20-meter lap pool with pool lounge and kiddie pool, paved sunbathing and pool deck, outdoor shower, male and female changing rooms, a children's play area, Zen garden, outdoor lounge, function rooms, a gazebo-type multipurpose area, exercise and jogging path.

Another coveted offering of Sunkrat to its Avenues residents is the project's low-density character. Tower 1 will accommodate only 16 units per floor, while Tower 2 will house 18 units per floor. Both towers will be equipped with three elevators. Meanwhile, Tower 3 may have more units (at 26 units per floor), but it assures the most land area (almost equivalent to two towers combined) and will also be equipped with four high-speed elevators situated strategically at the building's central core.

This low-density feature enhances exclusivity of the amenities and facilities, and ensures the convenient lifestyle which Sunkrat Avenues promises to its unit owners.

Target market

He added that Sunkrat Avenue's units—from the 92-unit 25.7 sq.m. studio to 98-unit 56.7 sq.m. 2-bedroom units—are all to attract young professionals and families who prefer well-located properties close to excellent dining destinations located in the nearby bonus Morato and Timog Avenue, schools, shopping centers including the nearby multi-storey shopping mall Robinson's Magnolia, and of course, places of work.

"Of course there are also local and overseas workers who are great at trying to predict the demands from young professional and families with students looking for modern high-rise condos with close proximity to places of work or study," he added.

He revealed that Sunkrat Properties does so a very attractive and worry-free payment scheme that could accommodate most requirements of their buyers. "Apart from the fact that one could pay as low as P4,200 a month right after paying a P15,000 reservation fee (for the least expensive studio units), we also enjoined our buyers to take Mortgage Redemption Insurance, a form of life insurance which pays for the mortgage of the insured in case of untimely death," shared Pelingon.

Sunkrat Avenues may be one of Sunkrat Properties' most important high-rise developments in Quezon City (the other one is the Sunkrat Capital Plaza near the City Hall) because we are able to develop a property located on a main thoroughfare but also on an elevated and flood-safe part of Quezon City," said Pelingon.

Sunkrat Avenues is one of the premiere offerings from Sunkrat Properties, Inc., a subsidiary of Megaworld Corporation, which has pioneered subdivision communities in Laguna and Cavite since 1989. The company is now also making a name in the condominium community development with its other vertical projects namely Sunkrat Parkview in Binondo, Manila, Sunkrat Adriatico Gardens in Malate, Manila, Sunkrat Tivoli Villas in Mandaluyong, Sunkrat Avenue Gardens in Aurora Blvd. QC and two other Quezon City projects namely Sunkrat Capitol Plaza and Sunkrat Shaw.

If you want to know more about their exciting new projects, call (02) 896-7813 or 39 or visit www.sunkrat.com.ph. Agents and brokers are also welcome to apply.

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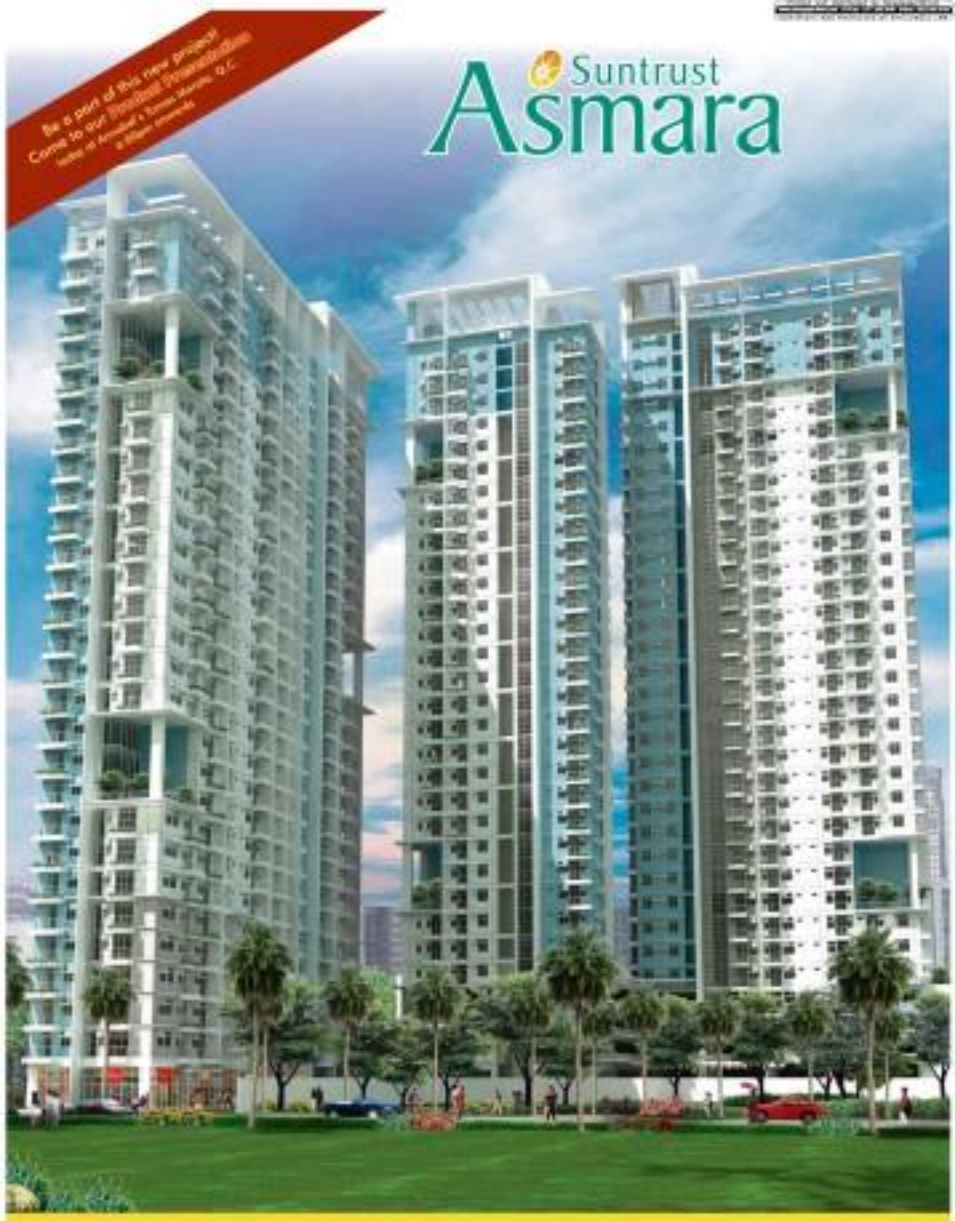

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GOLF COURSE COMMUNITY: Sherwood Hills Residential Estate • Sherwood Hills Golf Club • Riva Bella @ Sherwood Hills
INDUSTRIAL PARK DEVELOPMENT: Suntrust Ecotown- Tanza

Marketing Buzz

BUSINESS Friday

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Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

Each day, fishermen haul bangus to be cleaned and traded by vendors at the Dagupan City market.

Bangus branding to start in La Union, not Dagupan

By Yolanda Bordado
Inquirer Northern Luzon

DAGUPAN CITY—Expect ready-to-fry, certified fresh bangus, complete with its own brand name and logo, to be out in the market by December.

But the milkfish on display may likely come from the Tondol town in La Union instead of the Pangasinan source that have shaped the bangus industry for decades.

The move was spurred at the 19th Fishery Industry Stakeholders Forum held here on this day.

Nestor Domenden, Bureau director of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), says his office intends to develop the brand in this city which had earned a reputation for producing tasty bangus.

But he says Dagupan fishermen need to be more alert in adopting quality-control measures needed for certifying their products that would have added value in their daily catch.

"This (slow pace of adjustment to the protocol) is a threat. I don't want to usurp where it is eaten. I intend not to be unfair to start the bangus branding program," he says.

Officials say the BFAR could not even wait for three more months to start the project "and it is easier to start in Bin-Tonan."

According to Domenden, the price of certified and branded bangus can be increased by 95 a kilo.

Emma Molina, Dagupan agriculture officer, says the local government has established its "Dagupan's Best Products" project to display various products, like bangus, out to bigger markets.

The city will be marketing processed bangus, instead of boneless bangus fish, she says. "We are still waiting for the draft memorandum of agreement for the branding project so we will know what to do," she adds.

There are four fishpond operators whose 14 farms have been accredited by the BFAR.

The agency has designed a bangus tag (shipment, which costs P20,000 a unit. The instrument will be given as assistance to fishpond operators who want to brand their produce by binding the plastic tag around each fish tail.

The BFAR will install security codes on these labels and develop a design that will be difficult to copy.

Domenden's team, BFAR provincefishery and quality specialist, says the bangus branding program will help producers benefit from a niche market, while assuring consumers of safe products.

Pinoy comfort food attains gourmet status

Text & photos by Arnaldo Mo. Gutierrez
Contributor

YOU CAN see their bottled food products in the major supermarkets like Rustan's, Robinsons, Shoppesite, Landmark, and one kiosk in the fourth level of SM Megamall: Connie's Kitchen gourmet fish (bangus, daing and tuyo) and pasta sauce like Salsa Amaya and the eloquent-sounding parmesan.

The products are also found in some supermarkets in Cebu and Cagayan de Oro City and cost a bit more than the ubiquitous Spanish sardines in bottles.

These boneless fish and pasta sauces can get mixed with assorted ingredients like extra virgin olive oil, mushroom, crushed tomatoes, soya oil, garlic, vinegar, pimientos, paprika and spices.

The Spanish-style bacalao (salted dried Sargasso fish) tastes just like the way my mother prepared it for us: daing, especially on each Wednesday and Good Friday,

ENTREPRENEURS Marcelet and Connie Gonzalez

AT the Deli, preparing for the day's work.

when rice would not taste normal without consuming a dry fried or smoked, salty tuyo pick).

Other humanfood are the chicken, shrimp and tuyo, which are breakfast staples in any Pinoy home, urban or rural.

Connie's Kitchen is owned by entrepreneurs Marcelet and Connie Gonzalez, who also maintains a Deli (tel. 721-0695) in Nova Manila, Quezon City, across the Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church.

"We were the first to call ourselves gourmet," says Marcelet, with an hint of being boastful.

"The way we prepare simple Filipino comfort food has elevated this to gourmet status. These are no bottoc, adobo, etc. and we put in olive oil to give it a gourmet flavor."

"We've been reviewed," adds Connie succinctly, but declines to elaborate.

The owners started some 18 years ago with basic (plain food) for camping trips to Lake Caliraya, Laguna and other places, the Gonzalezes being an outdoor family. The daing was the first to be prepared. Their hobbyjust blossomed. Happy friends, home for the Christmas **hamper**, started to order from them, so they could bring it to relatives abroad who were longing for good Filipino food.

"We were surprised at how well it was received," recalls Connie. "Then word spread and in 1994 we registered the business so we could market it properly."

And so the business grew through the years, and the bottled products (now numbering 18) became more visible in the supermarket. It spread mostly through word of mouth, satisfied customers, and exposure through the bazaars and trade fairs. It is only now that Connie's Kitchen will have a website, courtesy of a son who is—as the couple haughtily admit—more computer-savvy than his parents.

Everything is finally made, like the dried fish ("no preservatives, all natural"). The pasta is home-made, and the mushrooms come from local growers. "The main concept is to showcase locally made gourmet foods and encourage their growth," says Marcelet.

For the month of October Deli is a drop with the Cancer Foundation, in which proceeds from a special menu prepared at the Deli will go to them. Other establishments are also participating in this endeavor.

It has been 18 years now for Rose's business?

"It has put food on the table," Blumlet says modestly. "It's something we hope our children can build on and expand."

'Product development: innovate or Kaizen?'

Q: WE'RE an SME CPA company primarily providing auditing services. We're actually more medium size than small. We recently attended a product innovation workshop for the execs and examples on product development were all in consumer products. When we asked the seminar facilitator about our industry, she told us that she did not have the necessary experience to answer our questions. We assumed we will hire about an issue she brought up during the seminar.

This was about the theme of product development strategy between innovating versus improving existing products or in our case, existing services.

Our seminar director talked of product innovation as referring to really new and breakthrough products, like said that's where the giant revenue increases are to be found. Improving an existing product, she claimed, is not product innovation. It's "incremental new product development" that can give increased revenue

Dr. Neal Roberts
& Andy Roberts

that's just equal to "a new packaging, a good TVC or a bit promo."

Our own experience in the audit service business does not really support this claim. In a short period of eight years, our advanced analytics was in terms of revenue, manpower and clients by our percentages in improving our audit and related services. May we have your own diagnosis? Which do you think is better for us? Service innovations or continuing with our service improvement initiatives?

A: Let's start by first agreeing to sort our vocabulary. Let's adopt your seminar facilitator's definition of product or service innovation. As to service improvement and your preference in them, let's use the shorter term, "Kaizening."

That is a Japanese term that translates to "continuous improvement" or "continually changing for the better." The concept became even popular use as part of the TQM (Total Quality Management) movement in the '90s.

There's a lot that's been written and said about the related topics of product development and innovation. For the issue you've sought our help, there's at least two or three more evolving approaches. Our preferred approach is to tackle it from the consumer perspective.

For products and services where many customers are dissatisfied or even just somewhat disappointed, customers are quick to positively respond from a product improvement or improvements. This is especially true when the disappointed customers see visibly are that the product or service improvement has greatly removed the area or areas of customer irritation and annoyance.

After the second World War, Japan's fortunes in appliances and Toyota in automobiles succeeded in grabbing global market share leadership in the two product categories by simply making appliances and cars better. Today, Haier's harmony in appliances and Hyundai in automobiles are proving that the well-researched product improvement strategy has not at all lost its power and magic.

In service marketing, service improvement is the more dominant service development approach versus service innovations. You see this in the airline industry, restaurants, hotels, entertainment, hospitals, banks, and many others. This happens because there are so many specific aspects of a service that can disappoint customers. You only have to remember that a customer, for example, of a restaurant can get annoyed or irritated by the many many things that have to do with that restaurant's service staff, its service menu or service venues, and its service processing.

In contrast, breakthrough service innovations are rare. While they can be secured from the very same service aspects where service improvements are taken, they require a more creative and "out-of-the-box" thinking. Any consider the service innovation that brought FedEx to leading global position in air delivery of packages. That innovation was nothing more than simply assurance of delivery or value it ensured as "time-definite shipping and delivery of packages." What made it successful is mind-radically well?

That success came from the fact that the service innovation was satisfying an unserved customer need. There was no such service like it. That's unlike a product improvement. While service improvement is also satisfying a customer need, it is a different and lesser intensity felt need. It's simply an underserved need. It's a need that's already being met but not adequately, only partially.

The difference between satisfying an unserved customer need and an underserved need defines the core difference between a service innovation and a service improvement. This leads us back to your question: "Which is better for us in our audit service?"

If you understand "better" in terms of revenue productivity, it's obvious that a true service innovation will yield for you much more initial revenue than a service improvement. But you should not only think of initial revenue gains. Think as well of accumulated revenue increases. Over the long term, "Kaizening" or continuous service improvement can equal and even exceed in accumulated revenue increase from a sensational service innovation.

So it's not an "either this or that" choice. Choose instead on the basis of "both this and that."

Or after both "Kaizened" service improvements and innovations. There's no reason why you can't pursue both. There's no reason why you have to choose just one of the two.

Keep your questions coming. Send them in to us at Marketingrx@rocketmail.com or drandyroberts@gmail.com. God bless!

PAL: Local flight routes won't be compromised

By Dianne L. Lucas

PHILIPPINE Airlines will continue to fly to all domestic routes it currently serves, but may assign smaller aircraft for destinations where demand levels do not warrant the use of big jets, the flag carrier's chief executive said, disclosing government officials.

Most of the officials had expressed concern that the airline would stop servicing their cities, and this development would adversely affect commerce and tourism prospects.

Then of the plan to improve the airline's business model is to restructure operations by designating the appropriate aircraft [for the destination], operating [but we have narrow- and wide-bodied aircraft of varying configurations," PAL president and chief operating officer Ramon S. Ang said in his letter, a copy of which was disclosed by the Inquirer from our LOI request.

The realignment of PAL's aircraft and routes—some aimed to serve difficulties for so-called "legacy carriers" whose levels of profitability have been constrained by the challenges posed by budget airlines, and coupled with persistently high fuel prices on the international market.

The PAL chief acknowledged that the plan had caused "a certain degree of alarm" among the airline's customers when news of the aircraft realignment was reported in the press last month.

"Let me assure you that we are not abandoning any service or any of our existing local routes," he said. "We are simply positioning our existing aircraft fleet to match existing needs in certain destinations."

In particular, some of PAL's domestic routes are served by wide-bodied aircraft like the Boeing 747-400 or the Airbus A330, with most flights only partially filled up upon takeoff. Under the new schedule, PAL will assign smaller aircraft for routes with less passenger demand, allowing it to realize significant cost savings, officials explained earlier.

Other less profitable routes, meanwhile, would be served by Airphil Express which would soon be renamed PAL Express and would operate under a code-sharing agreement with its parent firm.

Both PAL and PAL Express fly the two newest Airbus A320s and the Bombardier Q400 on domestic routes.

"The change in name is only a reflection that both airlines share the same exceptional standards of safety and customer service," Ang said.

"With this exercise, we hope to provide for convenient schedules, allow servicing of more routes and ensure seamless connectivity between hops while ensuring delivery of our new Airbus aircraft to complete our fleet."

PAL is set to receive eight A320s in 2013, as part of its multi-year 100-plane rollerking plan.

"While we continue to invest in our aircraft and new product, both inflight and on the ground, we are also constantly implementing measures that will protect the gains we have already achieved in the first three months and make your

ANG

airline more efficient and profitable without resorting to our commitment to serve this country," Ang added.

DMCI hopes to stave off power crunch in Palawan

By Amy R. Remo

DMCI POWER Corp. of the Consunji group is racing to get up by Dec. 1 this year the first phase of its planned 27-megawatt diesel-fired power plant in Palawan, which is expected to help shore up power supply in the island.

In a text message, DMCI Power president Edwin Bautista said the company was still working on securing the various permits it would need in start construction of a power unit that could generate the first 3 MW for Palawan Electric Cooperative (Palecos).

Although DMCI Power is optimistic that it will be able to put up the whole 27-MW power plant by September next year, it is however concerned about meeting the commitment for the 3-MW portion by December.

Bautista explained that the company has yet to secure permits that would allow them access to the site of their planned diesel facility and start the civil works in the area.

"It might be difficult (to put in place) on December 1 the first 3 MW. We'll see next week. We hope to gain access by this weekend," Bautista said.

In July this year, DMCI Power announced that it would put up three power generation facilities in Palawan over the next few years, to generate as much as 57 megawatts to additional capacity for the province. These power plants are expected to help plug the current and forecasted power supply crunch in Palawan, given the continuous economic growth of the province.

Bautista earlier said that the company hoped to start commercial operations of a 27-MW diesel-fired power facility in Palawan by September 1 next year, a 15-MW coal-fired power facility by December 2014, and another 15-MW coal facility by January 2017.

All capacities will be purchased and used by Palecos.

Malay conglomerate takes PCSO to court

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE LOCAL gaming unit of Malaysian conglomerate Berjaya will file a petition in court against state-owned Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) to seek the issuance of a writ of preliminary injunction issued in relation to a dispute on lottery operations in Luzon.

An injunction is meant to preserve the status quo.

Publicly listed Berjaya Philippines yesterday told the Philippine Stock Exchange that its wholly owned subsidiary Philippine Gaming Management Corp. (PGMC) had passed a board resolution to file cases against the PCSO.

PGMC wants PCSO board members cited in contempt for alleged "disobedience or resistance" to the writ of preliminary injunction issued by Judge Romeo Buhat of the Makati Regional Trial Court dated Sept. 5.

Respondents were PCSO board members Margarita Juico, Ma. Alexa Valdellon, Betty Siayngco, Mabel Mendiola and Francisco Joaquin III.

Earlier this year, PGMC had taken the PCSO to court for alleged violation of an exclusive equipment leasing deal and forging a new contract with another company without prior bidding.

PGMC based its lawsuit on the alleged violation of its agreement to provide lottery equipment for the Luzon area and a prohibition against entering into government contracts without public bidding.

PGMC and PCSO in lower courts' rulings on agreements between the former, an auto-electronic product, issued to the state gaming firm specialized lottery equipment for the operation by PCSO of an online lottery in Luzon.

The Berjaya group said the injunction stipulated that PGMC would be the sole provider or exclusive source for all lottery equipment in Luzon.

Recalling a disclosure from Philippine Online Systems Corp. dated June 1, the Berjaya group said the PCSO and Pacific Online had entered into an agreement allowing the latter to lease PCSO lottery equipment for PCSO-online lottery operations in Luzon.

Airline to change plane type to suit destination

DA budget effective, not wasteful

By Gracous M. Gonzales

A COALITION of farmers and fisherfolk views the proposed 2013 Department of Agriculture (DA) budget of P75.1 billion with optimism and caution.

Optimism, because of Agriculture Secretary Proceso Alcala's integrity and dedication.

Caution, because of a few lazy agriculture officials who may not have the commitment or the capacity to fulfill Alcala's vision of development.

Last Oct. 16, during a Senate hearing on the 2013 DA budget, the Alyansa Agrikultura administration's chief of executive and privy adviser to make the DA budget more effective, rather than wasteful.

The Alyansa, composed of 42 federations and organizations representing all agricultural and fishery sectors, has endorsed the recommendations of its members, 40 2025 participants, Free Watch, Alternative Budget Initiative (ABI) and Oxfam.

Reality check

In 2011, the DA budget doubled to P51.8 billion from its level a few years earlier. It was then increased by 52 percent to P92.9 billion in 2012. With DA-attached agencies included, this amounts to P64.1 billion, with a proposed increase to P94.1 billion next year.

With these significant increases, agricultural growth is expected to accelerate. Unfortunately the 2011 growth was only 2.34 percent, or only half of the projected annual agricultural growth of 4.3 percent to 5.3 percent which the government has set in its 2011-2016 mid-term development plan.

The 2012 growth in agri-

From page B1

investments.

Sawacs is a state-owned company that manages the Cu-Unjieng Ong's assets equity.

In December 2011, Manila Water bought a 49 percent stake in The Due Tahini BOO, another Vietnamese company with a bulk water supply agreement with Sawacs.

The Dau's bulk water supply contract with Sawacs is for some 300,000 cubic meters (cu m) per day.

In 2008, Manila Water entered into a five-year preliminary

COMMENTARY

Rice

We have do all we can to support DA's ambitious and praiseworthy goal of attaining rice self-sufficiency by 2013.

The self-rice be easy.

The Philippines' palay yield reached 16.7 million tons in 2011, the yield barely rose to 16.8 million tons despite the increase in budget.

For the country to attain by 2013 goal of becoming self-sufficient in rice, the Philippines will have to increase production from the 2011 level by 28 percent to yield 20.04 million tons.

This is difficult when viewed against the average annual palay yield increase of only 0.7 percent for the last ten years.

It has been argued that the target can be attained by raising the budget on irrigation. The irrigation budget of P34.5 billion this year is double the P17.6 billion of last year. The budget will soon go up to P37.6 billion next year.

We recommend that a provision be included in the proposed budget of 2013 to ensure that the budget is properly spent. A December 2011 GIA report by the Commission on Audit relating to solving irrigation projects that are said to be completed, amounting to P80.4 billion, and those that are still ongoing, worth P63.1 billion. This is alarming.

2012 ECONOMIC GROWTH

Sector	2012 Q1	2012 Q2
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing	1.9	0.7
Industry	4.9	4.9
Services	6.5	7.3

Two provisions for adequate funding should therefore be included in the proposed 2013 budget. One is for capability building for the new irrigation farmer organizations, which will take charge of the proposed 135,000 irrigated hectares. The other is for irrigation project monitoring by civil society organizations. Without this independent monitoring, the 0.6 report for 2012 may become worse, and the expected rice improvement may not be attained.

Smuggling

There is no specific DA provision to address smuggling, a key obstacle to agricultural growth.

Across-all agricultural sectors, the Alyansa published an average 30-percent discrepancy between the monitoring import level reports of three independent organizations and the figures of Customs Bureau. The difference can be accounted for mostly by outright smuggling, or technical smuggling (i.e., undervaluation, misdeclaration and misclassification).

For key agricultural sectors, this may be worse. In a published report, former Senator Ernesto Maceda showed that more than half of the rice imports were smuggled. Columnist Alex Magno published a similar findings on this issue.

Under the DA's 54 Senate hearing, false information was given, alleging that the DA personnel were already assisting the Inward Foreign Manifest (IFM) that had been previously held only by the BoC.

The IFM lists the import data two days before arrival. Thus, all agricultural imports that do not have import permits are smuggled, and therefore can be confiscated by enforcement.

Unfortunately, my personal interviews with the personnel who have access to the IFM data reveal that they are still not doing it because of the complicated procedures the BoC gave them, as well as the lack of six computers.

If there is an anti-smuggling budget provision, procedures like IFM access and other anti-smuggling actions can be undertaken effectively to stop this source of the agricultural vulnerability.

Conclusion

President Aquino has said, "Gana ang bona lac," referring to the Filipino people. It is now necessary for the Senate and the DA to listen to the recommendations of the farmers and fishermen before the 2013 budget is finalized.

Additional provisions such as the two recommended here should be included in the 2013 budget before it will be effective, rather than wasteful. Otherwise, the DA budget can become a hole, rather than a boon, for agricultural development.

(The author is chair of Agrisumin, former secretary for presidential affairs, former cabinet projects, and former undersecretary for Agriculture, and Trade and Industry. For inquiries and suggestions, email agrisumin_phil@yahoo.com or tel. fax 892-9522112)

Ayala water unit expands

From page B1

leased leakage reduction contract with Sawacs. Manila Water also signed an agreement with Vietnam's BIWASE Corp. and Mitsubishi Corp. to develop a new water sector and other environmental projects in Vietnam.

Manila Water is also exploring opportunities in India. In February 2011, Manila Water revealed that it would submit to the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board as "unsolicited for water reduction and operation and maintenance" project.

PRULINK	PRU LIFE UK
Investments of Variable Life Insurance Contracts	Dec. 11, 2012 / Dec. 10, 2012
Bond Fund - Peso	2.00751 / 2.00751
Managed Fund - Peso	2.71166 / 2.71166
Growth Fund - Peso	3.03903 / 3.03903
Equity Fund - Peso	1.64413 / 1.64604
Bond Fund - US Dollar	2.33041 / 2.33120
Balanced Return Fund 1	1.10381 / 1.10377
Balanced Return Fund 2	1.10566 / 1.10569
Pinakasa Fund - Peso	1.00864 / 1.00907
Money Market Fund - Peso	1.00407 / 1.00417
Asian Local Bond Fund - US Dollar	1.02083 / 1.02140

Share prices drop

From page B1

Investment bank Tesla Merrill Lynch said this could mark a rough bit China.

"It might take another couple of quarters for growth to significantly improve, but we believe the risk for a hard landing is getting increasingly smaller, so we could be overlooked to signal stabilization, and we even see some upside risk to our growth outlook at 7.6 percent in both 2012 and 2013," the investment bank said.

Although global markets firmed up, the Philippine index yesterday slightly slipped on profit-taking especially as the index neared record levels.

Value turnover at the local bourse amounted to P9.40 billion. There were 70 advancers against 95 decliners, while 44 stocks were unchanged.

Among those that weighed down the index were URC, BPI, Metrobank, SM, JG Summit, Ayala Land, Ayala Corp., Bank of the Philippine Islands, Manila Water, PSE and PLDT.

On the other hand, gainers were led by SMPH, Megaworld, SMIC, AGI, AC, BDO and PLC. Doris C. Dumlao

Philex plugs leaking Padcal mine tunnel

From page B1

and sealed with concrete following the slug, 1 accident.

The water from the mountainous ravines pond would henceforth be discharged through another tunnel. The alternative pathway and sealed would also be reinforced and sealed once the spillway whose actual construction would take seven week and take about six months to build, is completed.

Toledo-and Philippine also stepped up its cleanup drive on Balog Creek following the successful plugging of the sinkhole, with about 300 employees undertaking sediment traps and handling flower sacks in temporary storage facility.

He added that many volunteers, including students, teachers, and families living in and around Padcal and along Agno River have expressed willingness to participate in the cleanup drive.

These volunteers will have to wait, however, for a few more days while company personnel clear trails that are easier to traverse leading to the creek and its access point with the Agno River.

NOTICE OF LOST STOCK CERTIFICATES

Notice is hereby given that the following stocks certificates of Ayala Land, Inc. (the "Corporation"), registered in the name of Ms. Cecilia Y. Blancaflor and Ms. Ma. Victoria Y. Estrada, have been lost:

Stockholder	Stocks Certificate Nos.	No. of Shares
Ms. Cecilia Y. Blancaflor	102054	42,864
and/or Ms. Victoria Y. Estrada	102055	42,864
Gerardo or Cecilia Teresita J.	102056	42,864
Yuvi	102057	309,243
	Total Number of Shares	437,043
Ms. Ma. Victoria Y. Estrada	102058	42,864
and/or Ms. Pia Socorro Polo-	102059	42,864
Carmona	102060	42,864
	102061	309,243
	Total Number of Shares	437,043

Replacement certificates will be issued after the date of the said publication of this notice in case nothing of a bona fide nature is known by any and all claims of ownership of the said shares on account of the issuance of a duplicate copy of the said stocks certificates. All requests regarding the said certificates of stock must be presented to the Corporation within one (1) year from the date of the last publication of this notice.

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BUSINESS

IBM expands in PH, puts up BPO facility

Center to serve North American clients

By Paolo G. Montecillo

IBM plans to expand its Philippine base with the establishment of a new business process outsourcing (BPO) facility to handle support for the company's "social business" software offers to North American clients.

In a statement, IBM Philippines said the new social business support center would strengthen the company's position as one of the premiere players in the local BPO industry.

The company said its "significant investment" in establishing a software customer support center in the Philippines before the end of 2012 would "support the rapidly increasing demand for social business solutions globally."

IBM will open a social business customer support center at the UP-Ayala Techno-Hub in Quezon City to serve IBM's North American market.

"This shift of customers to business networking, also known as 'Social Business,' has become the next big challenge for organizations that are looking to quickly adopt these skills into their businesses to better reach clients and suppliers, while rapidly gaining insight on the data being created in these networks," the company said.

Companies that are able to deal with the social media landscape will be able to react more swiftly to customer trends and cut excessive transactions, IBM said.

The major investment in the Philippines by IBM Software, a division of IBM, will be operational in January 2013 and will support the rapid global adoption of social business tools.

The Philippine center will be supporting IBM social business software such as Connections enterprise social networking software, Customer Experience Suite, Traveler for mobile access, and many others.

The Philippines joins a roster of IBM social business customer support centers in North America, Dublin, Japan, China, India and Brazil.

IBM has a global network of more than 70 Service Delivery Centers in several countries around the world including the Philippines.

Last year, BPOs brought in $11 billion in revenues, making the industry the second largest source of foreign exchange for the Philippines, next to remittances from overseas Filipino workers (OFWs).

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BUSINESS

S&P doubts credit rating upgrade for PH by '13

Credit rating firm sees challenges as well as progress

By Konrad W. Dumaiga

GLOBAL credit watcher Standard & Poor's Ratings Services said it usually takes two and a half years for a sovereign credit rating to move one notch to investment grade, dimming hopes that the Philippines may get an upgrade as soon as 2013.

But in a list of frequently asked questions sent out on Wednesday, S&P said the upgrade could come sooner or later and that underlying factors could result in migrations and even reversal.

Market watchers are currently focused on an apparent race between the Philippines and Indonesia—both rated BB+—to avoid the coveted rating, which starts at BBB-.

"There can be large divergences from the average of 2.5 years," S&P said. "For example, it took two years for Azerbaijan, South Africa, and Mexico to reach investment grade, compared with 10 months for Brazil and 11 months for Bulgaria."

It was pointed out that the rating on the Philippines was unchanged for quite a while until two recent raises within a relatively short time.

S&P explained that improvements in the Philippines' political environment and policy setting prompted such actions.

"Specifically, the government narrowed its fiscal deficits, boosted its reliance on foreign savings, and normalized the political arena," the agency said.

However, other factors that may influence further actions on the Philippines could current over a longer interval.

One is the inflow of remittances to the Philippines, which may be a negative factor in case it skews the economy's future to absorb labor supply.

"We account for this weakness in our appraisal of the country's economy," S&P said.

"That said, the Philippine overseas labor force is well diversified in terms of geography and skill mix," it added. "In a country with an underdeveloped social safety net, their remittances support domestic consumption (and to a lesser extent, they help investment in small enterprises and in residential construction."

In terms of political and policy environment, S&P said the Philippines had relatively stabilized since the 2010 elections, with the legislature more efficient and the administration narrowing the deficit and spending more on infrastructure.

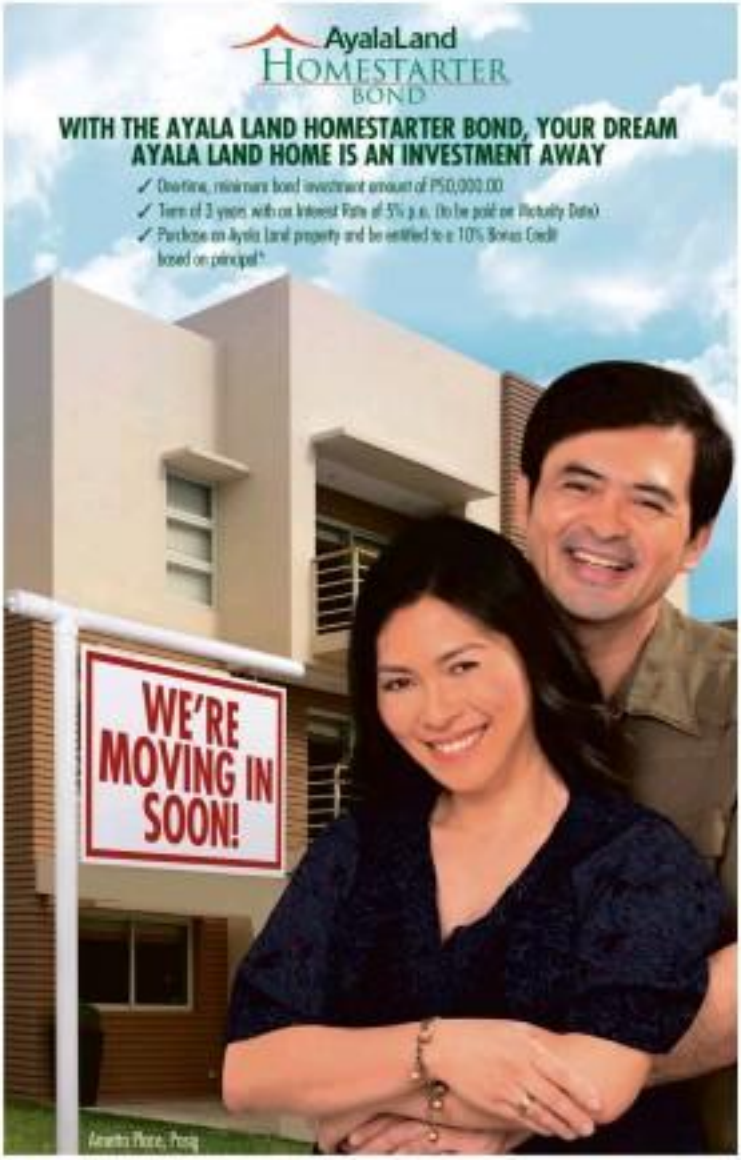
"In addition, our assessment of the country's political settings takes into account institutional quality and stability, the regulatory and business environment, and data transparency and reliability, which evolve only over longer periods of time," the agency said.

S&P cited the Philippines' weak fiscal profile and the high interest burden on its public debt—due to a narrow revenue base and the large portion of expensive commercial debt—as among factors that hamper further improvement of its credit rating.

Also, S&P observed that the Philippines had made little inroads in improving family planning.

"Its relatively high population growth rate (averaging above 2 percent per year), also detracts from attaining higher per capita wealth levels," the agency said.

"In the Philippines, more timely data on nonresidents' holdings of local currency debt would be helpful," it added.



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Asian Hospital now a PLDT WiFi Zone

THE ASIAN Hospital, one of the Philippines' top medical institutions is now part of PLDT's fast-growing network of WiFi Zones.

PLDT recently partnered with Asian Hospital to set up a dedicated broadband line that will ensure premium WiFi for the Alabang-based facility's patients, visitors and world-class staff.

PLDT's WiFi Zone is spread out in over 3,500 establishments such as malls, restaurants, and bars, all of which cater to a new generation of tech-savvy people. This promises WiFi privilege can be enjoyed by PLDT mobile and landline subscribers for free until Dec. 31.

Just last month, Smart Sumosopolis, the nerve of Philippine sports and entertainment since its opening in 1990, was also made into a WiFi Zone, courtesy of PLDT.

"The new WiFi set up in Asian Hospital can easily connect customers in the facility's common areas, and lobby, to faster communication convenient at crucial moments," said Ariel Tinio, SVP of PLDT's home fixed-line segment.

ARIEL Tinio, SVP of PLDT's home business segment and Bernice Lorenzo, president and CEO of Asian Hospital, seal their agreement to set up a premium Wi-Fi connection at the medical facility. From left: Ramon Haro, head, home marketing, PLDT; Jose Mo Lim, president and CEO, Metro Pacific Investments Corp.; Ferwin Lizarraga and Augusto P. Palisoc, executive director, hospital group, Metro Pacific Investments Corp.

"Asian Hospital joins the list of other world-class medical facilities supported by PLDT's WiFi Zone," Herrera said. " At PLDT, we believe in keeping the family connected and this goes beyond the physical home. Through WiFi Zone, one can always have access to the Internet and be constantly in touch with their loved ones, as well as keep in continual service and technology."

Vergeire who's visiting a loved one, or researching on crucial medical information, can easily tweet and upload their photos and concerns in real time, and share this with all their friends anywhere," added Danilo Ibarra, head of home marketing, PLDT. "WiFi Zone is not a new technology but it's something that PLDT is doing to keep connections alive wherever one may be. In the past, PLDT powered several stores in Baguio, restaurants, bars and even saloon around the metro with WiFi. Now we are gradual by connecting hospitals, government institutions and malls, as well," he said.

To learn more about the PLDT WiFi Zone, log on to wifizone.pldthome.com.

Smart introduces better data roaming for postpaid clients

POSTPAID Smart subscribers traveling abroad now have another layer of defense against data roaming bill shock, as Smart offers regular text notifications about their data usage.

Via the free Data Roaming Alerts feature, Smart will send roaming subscribers an SMS once they incur P1,000 in data charges. Additional roaming alerts will be sent for every incremental usage of P1,000 thereafter.

"Our postpaid subscribers abroad can now rest their laptops on social networking sites and check their e-mail without fear that they would exceed their roaming budget. Data Roaming Alerts gives them more control over their data usage," said Smart's executive vice president and head of wireless consumer division Emmanuel Lorenzana.

"Aside from giving our customers superior and reliable services, we also want to give them peace of mind when they are out of the country. We ensure not a penny tag on that," he added.

Smart's executive vice president and head of wireless consumer division Emmanuel Lorenzana.

If subscribers are roaming on Globe, Touch Mobile, Bharti Airtel, Comviva Mobile Alliance, which include Hutchison in Hong Kong and Macau and StarHub in Singapore, they will get unlimited surfing capabilities for only P30.00 a day.

"Postpaid Smart subscribers availing themselves of the long-standing unlimited roaming service do not have to turn off data access on their smartphone or tablet because they will be charged a flat rate no matter how much data they consume. The affordable P30 cap is the ultimate tool against bill shock," said Tina Montero, group head of Smart's global access and international services.

To enjoy the service, Smart subscribers should click on the "Settings" option on their smartphone, go to "Network," choose "Operator Selection," and click on "Manual." They can then select from the following Comviva member networks: StarHub in Singapore, Indosat in Indonesia, M1NL/ 06NL in India, NTT Docomo in Japan, Vodafone in Thailand, Sky Data one in Taiwan, KTF in South Korea and Unitphone in Vietnam.

CALTEX BOOTH BAGS AWARD AT FAP 2012

CALTEX (Philippines) Inc., marketer of the Caltex brand brand of fuels and lubricants was presented with the best booth award given by the Philippine Franchise Association (FA) for "raising the bar on booth design and setting the standard in brand promotion". Directors participate in an interactive, engaging booth at the the Franchise Philippines at this year's franchise fair. Shown above during the inauguration of the Franchise Business Fair's Bureau Energy Secretary Rose Almendras and Ram Aquino, pictured here with Caltex Vice Chairman Cielo Magsaysay (left), Caltex national president Jo Kim Sa Pong (VP, international products), Ahmad Mahdi (GM, Asia Pacific sales and marketing support) and staff.

Lim named Digital Marketer of the Year in Asian Leadership Awards

MCCANN Worldgroup Philippines continues to assert digital authority with a string of successes and recognitions, most recently at the 2012 Asian Leadership Awards (ALA).

McCann Worldgroup chief executive officer Donald Lim has been crowned the 2012 Digital Marketer of the Year for the agency's innovation programs which successfully steered client brands and businesses to growth. ALA is the only show in the region which recognizes leading businessmen of achievement and honors their contributions towards Asia's economic development. The gala ceremony held at Dubai's Taj Palace Hotel, was attended by nearly 150 senior leaders and decision makers, together with businessmen from various countries and government officials.

Lim is driving McCann Worldgroup Philippines' innovation programs with digital as a pivotal pillar. He is also managing director of the agency's digital disciplines MRM. In one year, McCann's digital push gained traction—the agency won 4/5 Agency of the Year for Digital Excellence, the Gold Bonsai trophy for the IMMAW (Internet and Mobile Marketing Association of the Philippines), while marking unprecedented campaign success for Coca-Cola's "The Heart Project", think of the Philippine Islands' "Chris Lao Wishes to Name" and Nescafe's Facebook page "the country's number one Facebook brand page in terms of the base and engagement."

MRM continues to set records as it rolls out cutting-edge proprietary tools such as the Digital Brand Health—now being utilized within the McCann network, namely in Japan, Thailand, China, Malaysia, Indonesia, Taiwan and Philippines offices. The group holds the distinction of having the most number of Triple AdFreak Professionals and leads in shaping the digital industry through senior level involvement in various organizations. Early this year, MRM launched the country's first ever immersive digital mentorship program—the MRM Digital University.

A MRM contingent from the 2012 Digital Marketer of the Year Award Lim (left) with Alberto CEO Jing Founder Dr. R.G. Bhaskar at the Asian Leadership Awards ceremony.

DAET HOSTS PLDT CABLE LANDING STATION

LEADING telecommunications provider PLDT's newest cable landing station in Daet, Camarines Norte (left photo), which houses the Asia Submarine-cable Express (ASE), the biggest capacity international cable that connects Singapore, Malaysia, Philippines, Hong Kong, and Japan, was launched recently to commemorate attended by PLDT executives. The 8,000 mile-long ASE optical fiber cable system further enables the growth of broadband Internet and international data connectivity and enhances the country's global competitiveness in attracting investments from BPO and other multinational companies. Inset photo: PLDT with PLDT's Jun-ji Matsuzaki, Mr. Shoichi Ito of Singapore, and FPM Mabuchi, in partnership with NEC Corp. and Fujitsu Ltd., the ASE is a 7,800-kilometer undersea cable network that uses 40 Gigabits per second (Gbps) technology, upgradable to 100 Gbps with a minimum design capacity of 11 Terabits per second. Below: PLDT's third landing station in operation, after those in Nasugbu, Batangas and Bauang, La Union. Shown at right during the ribbon-cutting ceremony are (Mayor Tito S. Sarmiento II, Mayor of Daet, Camarines Norte; Atty. Jose Ma Ongkiko, Chief of Staff, Senator Pia Cayetano

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5 Must-Do's on Your Next Holiday Getaway

The upcoming holidays give you another chance to get away. Since December is already fast approaching, it's about time to book a plane ticket, go somewhere far from the city's congested roads and highly polluted atmosphere, and experience the luxurious comforts offered by our country's finest beach destinations. But most people spend this precious, limited time away in the comfort of their hotel rooms, watching the same stuff they watch at home, or ordering room service. So, here are five must-do's to make the most out of your next holiday getaway.

Know your destination.
Plan your trip in advance. Spontaneity can be fun, but nothing ruins a vacation worse than being unprepared. You know the drill: travel light and pack your stuff at least a day before your trip so you don't scramble everything you own into your bag the last minute. While you're at it, research on your destination—the sights to see, what dishes the place is known for, recommended restaurants by people who have been there, etc. Refer to travel blogs or magazines so you know what to expect. In choosing a destination for your trip, it's always fun to visit your vacation favorites, but being adventurous with your choices won't hurt. This time, why not plan a trip to new beach resorts? Explore new places, and you'll surely experience and learn something new. It also helps to consult everyone you're having the trip with. From here, prepare a detailed itinerary based on your research and what everyone wants. You'll be surprised at how convenient your trip will turn out.

Make the most out of your getaway by getting away.
As much as possible, disconnect yourself (and your gadgets) from the city. Turn work, from all the stress. Give your mind the rest it has been dying to get. Turn on your email's vacation responder or advise your contacts from work beforehand that you are going to be away and that you promise to attend to them as soon as your leave is over. As much as possible, keep away from your mobile phone and computer. The only thing you should be sticking throughout your trip should be your camera.

Embrace the sun!
One of the best souvenirs from the beach is that perfect tanned. This is one of the few times you should consider sunlight your friend. Imagine a holiday vacation bombarded by rains and strong winds (for relax, lie on the sand, and let Mr. Sun embrace your skin. Of course, don't forget to apply sunblock before hugging the bath.

Befriend a local.
What most tourists never consider when on a vacation is awarding a local. You don't have to give out your contact details to a complete stranger, but it might pay off to start a conversation with the lady selling accessories made of seashells or the old man manning your boat. Ask which restaurant they would recommend for lunch or which stalls sell more affordable souvenirs. Inquire how life is for them in the area, and their stories just might be the highlight of your trip.

Watch the sunrise.
There is probably nothing more invigorating than watching the sun as it comes to its full, magnificent glory. So wake up at dawn, sit by the shore (at the very front row!) and witness one of nature's most beautiful, free of charge moments.

For that perfect holiday getaway for you and your loved one, BDO Platinum MasterCard and BDO Titanium MasterCard offer promo packages at the finest resorts in some of the country's top beach destinations — Boracay, Palawan, Bohol, Cebu, Albay and Camarines Sur.

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BOI investments hit ₱200B, halfway to 2012 goal

EDC signs agreement to explore in Chile, Peru

By Amy R. Reiros

ENERGY Development Corp., the country's largest producer of geothermal energy, has signed an agreement with Canada-based Alterra Power Corp. to conduct exploration work in the latter's geothermal concessions in Chile and Peru.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, EDC said that the agreement would allow the Lopez affiliate to conduct due diligence and has the sole option to advance the projects to joint venture stage.

"At that point, EDC will take a 70-percent interest in the joint venture by funding such amount necessary to top up Alterra's past development cost, " the company added.

In a separate text message to reporters, EDC president and COO Richard B. Tantoco added that the company's investment in the agreement with Alterra had no upfront exercise premium.

"Under the structure we agreed on, EDC will first conduct due diligence and if we are satisfied, we will invest equity in Chile or plan to drill one to two wells and in Peru we will do reconnaissance surveys, geophysics, geology and geochemistry work," Tantoco explained.

EDC is currently racing against other foreign companies to build the first geothermal power plant in Chile as it aggressively pursues efforts to locate its operations globally.

Tantoco earlier said that the company had been preparing to undertake preliminary survey work in its three geothermal exploration concession areas in Chile, namely Nevado, San Rafael and Batea, in the hope of picking up the first geothermal facility there.

The company also plans to pursue other prospective geothermal concessions areas in Chile, even after it dropped the Colorino and Lonquen prospects as initial surveys showed that these prospects were not commercially viable.

EDC, which is acknowledged as a global leader in wet steam technology, is equipped in the exploration, development and optimization of geothermal fields, as well as the operation and maintenance of the geothermal power plants in the Philippines with its installed capacity of 1,130 megawatts.

Gov't doubles efforts to meet target for the year of P400B

By Roy T. Chabueles

THE BOARD of Investments (BOI) has approved some P200 billion worth of investments in 2012, according to Trade Undersecretary Cristino L. Panlilio.

This is equivalent to just half of this year's target of P400 billion and the slow influx of investments was attributed to challenges in the permitting process for projects such as energy and mining.

"And we are continuing to work hand in hand with them," Panlilio said in a briefing yesterday, noting that there was still time for more investments to come in.

The BOI wants to generate about P400 billion worth of investments this year, having posted P366 billion in 2011.

In the mining sector, bottlenecks include the lack of a mining revenue law on which to base mining contracts.

Industry stakeholders, through the Chamber of Mines of the Philippines, are also seeking clarification on the implementing rules of recent mining policy reforms that have to do with contract projects.

To achieve its investment targets, the government is supporting investment missions, roadshows, and related activities.

The latest investment mission is a 30-person delegation from Hainan that will come in time for the visit of French Prime Minister Jean Marc Ayrault from Oct. 29 to 31.

"They're (Hainan) bringing a 30-person business delegation; I think that's one to one 20 companies, 30 people," Trade Secretary Gregory Domingo told reporters.

The BOI is also conducting roadshows on the 2012 Investment Priorities Plan (IPP) to key cities nationwide to encourage local investments in key sectors.

The series of roadshows will be held in Iloilo City, Bacolod City, Bacolod City, Davao City, Puerto Princesa City, Cagayan de Oro City, Naga City, Tagbilaran City, and Ilagan City. The roadshow is meant to rally key investors and operators to participate in the IPP.

The country's investment promotion agencies also recently signed a memorandum of agreement to pursue an integrated collaborative, and harmonized investment promotion program.

The 2012 IPP lists the priority sectors that are eligible for incentives and these include agriculture/agribusiness and fishery and creative industries/knowledge-based services.

KEY Globe Business officials break ground on the campus' new data center facility. (From left) Head of project management Noel Ribo; head of business products and services Enzo Ciocon; head of enterprise marketing Rhea Sabal; head of global business Jose Ramon Barcarse; head of logistics and administrative support property management Ces Palma; and head of service operations Maximo Bernales.

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111 YEARS

"We just kept reinventing ourselves, time and again"

Banagrebs has turned 111 and will keep growing

Philippines, September, 2012: This year marks the 111th anniversary of Banagrebs, one of the world's leading companies in the particulars industry. From its humble beginnings in 1901 in Bulilisan in the Black Forest, it has blossomed into a world renowned brand, and is now a company whose products are used daily in more than 125 countries across the globe. "In these fast-moving times, to consist not be taken for granted that a company will be able to grow and develop as successfully over such a long period of time," stressed Siegfried Gerdes, Chairman of the Management Board of Banagrebs AG. "This could only be achieved thanks to Banagrebs's persistent non-traditional ways of doing things, together with the company's ability to reinvent itself whenever it was necessary." A major asset is the creative spirit and passion the innovation, which the gifted inventor have broke possessed and passed on - and it is a legacy that is maintained and utilized until this very day.

Security meet set

PHILIPPINE security agencies can learn about the latest trends and practices in the security industry from conferences to be held in Israel next month.

The Israel Homeland Security 2012: The 2nd International Conference, slated on Nov. 13 to 14 in Tel Aviv Israel, will focus on cyber security, securing the smart city, critical infrastructure protection and emergency management.

Joel Gann, president of the Israel Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, said during a private luncheon forum that it was important to keep abreast of the latest innovations in security to minimize threats. Ana Roa

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China economy slows for 7th quarter in a row

BEIJING—China's economy slowed for a seventh straight quarter in July-September, missing the government's target for the first time since the depths of the global financial crisis, but other data released on Thursday pointed to a mild year-end rebound.

GDP grew 7.4 percent in the third quarter from a year earlier, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) said, in line with forecasts from economists polled by Reuters.

Included in the data, which will tell us how fast investment dam were all slightly ahead of forecasts, however, and quarter-on-quarter GDP growth was strong, suggesting the worst may be over and the world's No. 2 economy will pick up in the final quarter—but even a decade leadership transition may not usher in bruising.

It all added up to annual economic growth of 7.7 percent in the first nine months of the year, setting China up to meet or exceed the government's official 2012 target of 7.5 percent.

"We have 7.7 percent growth in September, which laid a solid foundation for achieving the full-year growth target. We are quite confident that we can achieve 7.5 percent full-year growth as above," NBS spokesman Sheng Laiyun told a news conference.

While GDP growth at 7.4 percent would be easier for just 11 economists offered downbeat expectations, it represents a sharp slowdown for China, where GDP grew 9.2 percent in 2011 and has averaged in annual rate around 10 percent for three decades.

Fixed asset investment rose 20.5 percent in January-September from a year earlier, ahead of the 20.2 percent consensus forecast, although still down from around 20 percent seen for most of last year.

Consumption also quickened, with retail sales in September expanding by 14.1 percent year-on-year, ahead of the 13.1 percent forecast, which would have been unchanged from August.

Growth in factory output rose as well 9.2 percent, slightly ahead of both the 9.0 percent forecast and August's 8.9 percent.

The biggest upside surprise in the data flurry also centred on the biggest headwind—a quarter-on-quarter surge of 2.2 percent in US, implying an annualised growth rate of 8.9 percent. It was far ahead of Q2's 1.8 percent quarterly growth, a level that investors had expected to build it easily.

The Q3 GDP number represented the first sign of the official target since the first quarter of 2009's 6.5 percent.

The government targets growth of 7.5 percent for the full year—reduced in 2012 from the previous 8 percent target—and the consensus forecast of economists polled by Reuters is that it will deliver on it, with an expansion of 7.7 percent.

Reuters

A WORKER checks on rolls of steel at a factory in Hebei, Liaoning province. China's economy slowed for a seventh straight quarter in July-September, missing the government's target for the first time since the depths of the global financial crisis, but other data released on Thursday pointed to a year-end rebound. REUTERS

Asian shares rise after US housing data, China GDP

TOKYO—Asian shares struck a seven-month high on Thursday on a slew of Chinese data pointed to stabilisation in the world's second largest economy, and positive US housing data helped ease worries about a sharper slowdown in global growth.

The brighter tone for risk assets weighed on safe-haven US Treasuries, the dollar and the yen.

China's third-quarter gross domestic product grew 7.4 percent from a year earlier, the slowest pace since the first quarter of 2009 and marking the seventh straight quarter of slower growth, but matching expectations.

Other data such as fixed asset investment, retail sales and industrial output slightly exceeded forecasts.

"This is within expectations, the economy is showing signs of stabilising, that is good news," said Dong Tao, economist at Credit Suisse in Hong Kong. "We think that with re-bounding property markets, stabilising export orders, resuming consumption, we probably have seen the bottom of the economy."

The MSCI index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan gained 0.6 percent, rising for a third day in a row with its energy and materials sectors leading the increase.

Hong Kong shares were up 0.6 percent and Shanghai shares rallied up 0.3 percent, while shares in Australia jumped 1.1 percent to a fresh 19-month high, supported by the resources sectors which drew strength from signs the slowdown in demand in its end in China, Australia's largest export market.

The commodities-linked Australian dollar briefly touched a two-week high of $1.0395 after the Chinese data, and last traded at $1.0384.

The Reuters/Jefferies Thomson Reuters/Jefferies CRB index, a global commodities benchmark, has recovered less than a third of its drop from its recent peak in September, offering more support to the upside.

The data for September suggests China's coming likely bottomed in July-August and is set to recover, and this will help ease fears about further downside risks to the Chinese economy," said Hirokazu Tsihara, a senior strategist at Daiwa Securities. "There aren't clear signs that demand from China is picking up, but sentiment for commodities is improving and this should eventually support growth-sensitive assets," he said.

Japan's Nikkei average jumped 1.7 percent to its highest in nearly three weeks on a weaker yen.

The dollar rose to a one-month high of 79.22 yen, with traders keen to see if it will test its 200-day moving average which stands around 79.40.

The dollar index, which measures the greenback against a basket of six major currencies, inched up 0.1 percent to 79.926, off a one-month high of 79.938 struck on Wednesday.

US housing starts surged 10 percent in September, the fastest pace in over four years, bolstering sentiment that had already perked up on a lull in the US jobless claims and strong retail sales.

That lifted Wall Street despite concerns that sluggish world economic growth would curtail corporate America's record-long streak of profit growth.

As investors recovered some risk appetite, the benchmark 10-year US Treasury yield rose to a one-month high of 1.81 percent on Wednesday for its biggest two-day slow since late July.

"The broad USD is inching between its use as a funding currency to invest in emerging markets, and a rise in its value linked to higher yields and growth expectations," dollar Commerzbank said in a research note.

Per share this investment rates a higher USD/JPY in the near-yield quarterly earnings," the note said, explaining the dollar's advance against the yen.

Investors were cautious ahead of a meeting of European leaders in Brussels on Thursday and Friday, searching for possible concessions over bailouts for struggling Spain and Greece.

The euro steadied around $1.3110, after touching a one-month high of $1.3140 on Wednesday.

European leaders will try to bridge deep differences over plans for a banking union at the summit, but no substantial decisions are expected, avoiding concerns about complacency in tackling the euro zone's debt crisis.

Clear decisions on helping Cyprus, Greece and Spain may also only come at a finance ministers' meeting next month, officials say.

Reuters

BUSINESS

BSP GOVERNOR RECEIVES 4TH GLOBAL FINANCE AWARD

Bangko Sentral Governor Amando M. Tetangco Jr. accepts his award as one of the world's six best central bankers in 2012 from Global Finance publisher Joseph Giarraputo. This is the fourth time that the governor is receiving the award from the international financial magazine. He received the same citations in 2006, 2007 and 2011. This awarding ceremony was held at the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan at the sidelines of the 2012 World Bank Meetings in Tokyo, Japan. Global Finance said that under the leadership of Governor Tetangco, "the central bank of the Philippines took advantage of receding inflation to cut its benchmark interest rate to a record low 3.75 percent in order to stimulate growth in the global economy weakness." The other Grade "A" Central Bankers in 2012 are: Glenn Stevens (Australia); Mark Carney (Canada); Stanley Fischer (Israel); Zeti Akhtar Aziz (Malaysia); and Pan Gong (Taiwan).

Bidding for EIB assets fails

Court order stops rehabilitation proceedings

By Gaucel W. Domingo

THE BIDDING yesterday for the assets and liabilities of Export and Industry Bank (EIB) was declared a failure with no bids submitted.

Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp., which is overseeing EIB's rehabilitation, said it had received from the Makati City Regional Trial Court a copy of an order stopping the rehabilitation proceedings for the bank.

EIB's rehabilitation is mapped out in two tranches. Tranche 1 will be for the sale of the bank's assets and transfer of its liabilities to the buyer. This was the object of yesterday's bidding.

Tranche 2 will be for the disposition of the commercial bank license of EIB, the bidding date for which is supposed to be announced later.

As soon as the deadline for the submission of bids lapsed at 1 p.m., PDIC vice president Nancy S. Samson pointed out that the cing bones that were supposed to contain the bid documents were empty—save for a letter she said per rehab examined the sweet floor prior.

Following the declaration of bidding failure, PDIC executive vice president Cristina G. Ortuoste said the same issuance received in the afternoon of Oct. 17 a copy of the TRO from Branch 61 of the Makati RTC.

The order "enjoins[s] the sale of the assets, branches and commercial bank license of the closed EIB," Ortuoste said, quoting pertinent parts of the order.

The Makati RTC issued the order in answer to a petition from Sosam Holdings Corp., East Asia Oil Co. Inc., Pacific Reliance Corp., Pacific Concorde Corp. and Mikpeh Holdings—which together posted an immediate bond of P772,000.

Also, the TRO directs PDIC, EIB and the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to file with the court within 15 days their answer to the complaint.

Others said the PDIC would file within the day an urgent motion to dissolve and/or lift the TRO, as well as its opposition to the petitioners' application for preliminary injunction.

"We will respect that the RTC had acceptable that to issue the TRO and preliminary injunction and that the court was patently in violation of the Rules of Court and jurisprudence," she said.

Others added that the plaintiffs "have no clear and unmistakable right over EIB's assets, branches and commercial bank license to be enabled to injunctive relief and that there was no extreme urgency to direct parties issuance of the TRO."

He also said that after a successful bidding for the rehabilitation of EIB, consents of stockholders, depositors and creditors have to be obtained—for which PDIC had earlier set a deadline of Nov. 9.

StanChart bullish on PH

(UNEDITED) Diamond Equity Research lowered its outlook on the Indonesian equity market to "underweight" from "neutral" citing concerns over lower corporate margins as food prices rise and commodity prices remain under pressure.

"We forecast this trend to continue and recommend investors switch away from Indonesia in favor of the Philippines, which we believe is only halfway through the same buy-sell re-rating process that Indonesia experienced between 2009 and 2010," analysts Clive Maidment and Benjamin Wong said in a note on Thursday.

Investors have been steadily decreasing exposure to the Indonesian market as they look to reallocate to markets with lower valuation risk as recovery expectations evolve in Asia, the researchers said.

Standard Chartered also cut its Jakarta Composite Index 12-month target to 4,400 from 4,500. At 10:30 a.m. (0300 GMT) the Indonesian index was up 0.26 percent, while the Philippines index was up 0.11 percent. Reuters

Gov't spending seen to have picked up pace

By Jira Q. Rivo

THE GOVERNMENT is expecting a budget deficit to improve by after posting a surplus in August, Budget Secretary Florencio B. Abad said, citing accelerated spending during the period.

At the sidelines of a forum on health financing yesterday, Abad said that government spending in September was "much better than August."

"We spent more. The rate of spending was higher than the rate of collection," Abad told reporters.

The Department of Budget and Management already deployed account management teams in key departments in a bid to improve the pace and quality of public spending.

The deployment of account management teams is meant to enhance government disbursement by identifying and addressing implementation bottlenecks.

Account management teams have been deployed to the Departments of Public Works and Highways, Transportation and Communications, Education, Health, Social Welfare and Development, Agriculture, Agrarian Reform, National Defense and Interior and Local Government.

The government posted a budget surplus of P12.5 billion in August as expenditures hit P128.9 billion while revenue reached P130.4 billion.

The surplus in August brought the January-August deficit down to P71.2 billion, just 29 percent of the P244.3 billion that the government planned to spend by the end of the national budget for the first nine months.

Expenses during the first eight months of the year reached P1.68 trillion while eight-month revenue reached P1.61 trillion.

Coco water exports up 80% in first half

THE COUNTRY's coconut water exports surged by 80 percent, in terms of revenue, in the first semester of 2012, to P1.249 million from P 5.662 million from in the same period in 2011.

The Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) also reported a 100.84 percent rise in export value to $114 million from $5.57 million in the previous year.

Exports to the US grew by 1,000 percent, followed by Europe with 900 percent and Asia with 400 percent.

Total consumption in the packaging ground, limited by coconut water's increased popularity as a health drink in the area. The healthy trend has likewise gained traction in the country making coconut water a more fashionable health drink. Coconut water is consumed locally through markets or street vendors, or in packaged drinks, both of which have limited shelf life," said Steven Ho, product manager of Pepsi Cola Products Philippines Inc. (PCPPI).

The new frontier in consumer availability for coconut water is in packaging, which can meet increasing demand in export and local consumption. Employee Coco Quench, available in Town Pick packages, is wrapping up the plan by providing up to eight months of shelf life for coconut water.

"We launched Employee Coco Quench in a response to incentivize consumers to healthy yet convenient products. By keeping the taste, freshness, and nutrients of coconut water intact, we provide consumers with a true alternative to getting your coconut water from the wet market."

Employee Coco Quench is the first locally produced and locally distributed packaged coconut water drink with up to eight months shelf life.

STI's follow-on equity offering OKd

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange has approved a follow-on equity offering of STI Education Systems Holdings Inc., formerly STI Dovic Holdings, worth P4.35 billion within this month.

STI is offering up to 2.9 billion common shares for as much as P1.50 per share. The final price will be set on Oct. 23 ahead of the Oct. 29-31 offer period. The stock trading debut is slated for Nov. 7, listed on a PSE session-to-session counter.

The Taiwan-led company expects to sell up to 69 percent or P9.28 billion worth of the offered shares to the investor market. The company operates and operates the Philippines' largest private for-profit network of educational institutions.

The offered shares will consist of 2.03 billion primary common shares, 69 96.35 percent of the total, while 108.2 million common shares, or 3.85 percent, will be secondary shares from shareholder Ramon Monzon Booking Corp.

There will also be an over-allotment option of up to 273 million common shares. STI has granted its stabilizing agent, UBS AG, the option to take up the over-allotment at the offer price. The option can be exercised within 30 days from the listing date. This would bring the total issue to three billion common shares.

For the domestic market, each PSE trading participant will be given an allotment of up to 4.190 million shares based on the list of 153 players as of the end of September.

The transaction will give STI a public ownership of about 27.5 percent.

Net proceeds from the primary offer were estimated to reach P3.77 billion, which will be used to cover the firm's P1.94 billion capital spending planned for 2012 and 2013.

Bankmaster Emilio Tuazo, the control ling stockholder, earlier said STI would open 10 new campuses to expand its educational network across the country in the next two to three years. Seven of the 10 new sites will be in Luzon, specifically on the following areas: Caloocan, Cabuyao, Ortigas-Cainta, Lucena, Columbia, Las Piñas and Quezon City in front of Trinoma mall. The three remaining sites will be in the Visayas-Mindanao region, specifically in Cebu, Bacolod and Cagayan de Oro. Britt C. Bartolo

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LTO and MMDA officials speak up for Road Safety at 1st Usapan AAP

THE NATIONAL AUTO CLUB

IN THE morning of Sept. 28, the Automobile Association Philippines (AAP) launched Usapan AAP, a series of monthly roundtable talks with the media and government and private sector individuals actively involved in promoting road safety, Hosted by AAP in the lobby of its 2nd EDSA Greenhills office, the first Usapan AAP had as guests of honor Land Transportation Office (LTO) Assistant Secretary Virginia D Torres and Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) Assistant General Manager Emerson Carlos representing MMDA Chair Francis Tolentino, who was suddenly called by President Aquino to attend the opening of a new underpass in Quezon City. Usapan AAP was emceed by Philippine Star columnist Cito Beltran.

Usapan AAP was conceived as an informal, congenial gathering where the media could meet, talk and have brunch with government officials and influential private sector personalities who share AAPs goal to make motoring and commuting safe for all road users. As AAP president Gus Lagmay said in his welcome remarks, "The issues we are facing now will be a continuing activity for AAP. As everybody knows, everything we do here in AAP is for the benefit of motorists. So anything that concerns motorists, we'd like to be involved in it. In fact, we'd like to make motoring a pleasure, which includes, of course, road safety as our number one advocacy."

The media present addressed questions to Torres and Carlos about the licensing and regulation of electric vehicles, the law on modifying exhaust pipes, the Camiguin case, the basis for the revocation of a driver's license, whether the LTO properly inspects motor vehicles before their registration, the validity and proper use of commemorative plates, what the flashing of headlights means in the Philippines, etc.

MMDA Assistant General Manager for Operations Emerson Carlos, LTO Assistant Secretary Virginia R Torres, AAP VP Johnny Angeles and AAP president Gus Lagmay at the 1st Usapan AAP last month.

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Join the AAP Travel Caravan to Rizal

THE NATIONAL AUTO CLUB

AFTER the three successful Ilocos Tourism caravans organized by the Automobile Association Philippines (AAP), the national auto club is gearing again for another exciting travel event. This time, it will be organized by AAP Travel, a fully owned subsidiary of AAP in coordination with the Department of Tourism and the destination is Rizal province on Saturday, Nov. 17.

The theme of this November's one-day AAP Travel caravan is "Rizal: A Visit to the Cradle of Philippine Art and Nature". It will give participants an opportunity to discover and explore the remarkable and globally recognized tourist destinations in Rizal.

Famous for its artistic, religious and cultural heritage, diverse natural and man-made attractions and magnificent views, Rizal will give caravaners an experience not usually expected from a caftan destination—an experience with the soothing touch of nature and art. Despite the industrial growth Rizal is going through, the local government and its people make sure that the arts, nature, and culture always remain their home province's most treasured assets.

The caravan will first head to the nearest and pristine falls that surrounds the irresistible of Rizal's scenic Daranak, a protected waterfall with natural vegetations, beautiful ponds, and rivers flowing through lush-treed trees and plants, is 16 meters high and a truly inspiring site. A short walk over the top of Daranak reveals smaller and cascading streams known as the Bulog Falls, where a unique rock formation has been following by unpredictable deliberations. This scenery and the peaceful setting depart from the commercial growth of a waterfall, making Bulog Falls a sight to behold.

Nature lovers will surely appreciate Hen's Garden—a five-hectare garden that is a sanctuary of birds and butterflies and a perfect natural home for farming.

People interested in history will be enchanted by the Hinagapan Petroglyphs, a cultural heritage site due to recognized as the most prehistoric Philippine relic with rock engravings and 127 drawings of human and animal figures.

Also offered as options during the caravan are tours to historic religious sites such as the long-standing Franciscan-built Basa Church which has been a Rizal tourist attraction for over 300 years, and Antipolo Church, the home of Antipolo's renowned miraculous icon, the Our Lady of Peace and Good Voyage.

The caravaners will have their lunch at the elegant Thunderbird Resort which will give them a chance to relax and enjoy swimming events as it is situated in the Binangonan foothills of the Sierra Madre mountain range.

Other places that the caravaners can visit during the caravan are the Blanco Family Museum and Yuk Designs, the home of iconic crafts of Rizalian artists.

To promote creativity among the caravaners, AAP Travel is organizing a photo contest on the day of the caravan itself. With the theme "In Rizal...art and nature thrive", the participants are encouraged to show their talent in photography while exhibiting the beauty of Rizal. The winners will receive a grand prize.

AAP members, their families and friends as well as non-members are encouraged to join the caravan to discover the wonders of Rizal. The organizers fee includes breakfast, buffet lunch with homemades drinks at Thunderbird Resort, merienda, entrance fees, freebies, and handouts. For more information, please call (02) 403-5000 local 625 or 0917-4495149 and look for Sherrel or Eden. Or visit us at www.aapcaravan.multiply.com.

THE CABAHAS Waterfalls | Features high and low-natural inspiration.

THE FRANCISCAN-BUILT Basa Church, a Rizal tourist attraction for over 300 years.

THE INFINITY pool of Thunderbird Resort overlooks the Sierra Madre mountain range.

LTO and MMDA officials speak up for Road Safety at 1st Usapan AAP

Kristoffer Ali C.

the effectiveness of number coding in improving traffic flow, whether motorcycle taxis have caused the number of road accidents, the possibility of establishing truck lanes and the delay in the issuance of license plates for newly registered cars.

Tevers apologized for the delay in the release of new license plates which he said was caused by glitches in the printing of the plates that cause the plates to deteriorate prematurely. He added that the problem should be solved in about two weeks.

Some of the questions entertained by Legaspi were the cases reached so far by an AAP member who had road rage. During the AAP Usapan Legaspi expressed the hope that more AAP members would participate in Usapan AAP rather by sending in their questions or actually attending the open forum.

The first Usapan AAP started using ahead of time, and broke up easily before 12noon. Legaspi was served lunch as DTO chief had to attend a meeting with public transport leaders at 11 o'clock. Before leaving, Torres said, "Through Usapan AAP we can all promote road safety and raise public awareness. We need everyone's help to minimize accidents on the streets. I thank AAP for all their activities that complement our goals to champion the motorists' interest and safety."

AUTOMOBILE Association Philippines Limited (AAPL) and Wildcat Information Technologies (WTI) recently signed a contract whereby WTI will supply and upgrade the District Positioning System of AAPL. Shown signing the contract are WTI sales and marketing manager Maria Miguel Bautista (seated, left) and AAPL operations manager Joey Maeda (seated, right). Standing from left (WTI's marketing officer Joanne Orias, WTI chief operating officer Bernardo Mon, AAP treasurer Jackie Pfleiderer and WTI account manager Timothy John Bayot as witnesses. With the WTI GPS series upgrade, AAPL will be able to keep track of all its car trucks, quick service vehicles, full support vehicles and motorcycle units in real time.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

AUTOMOBILE ASSOCIATION PHILIPPINES

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AAP Lakbay to host 1st Asia Pacific Tourism and Mobility Conference and Exhibits next year

THE 1ST Asia Pacific Tourism and Mobility Conference and Exhibits will bring some of the world's prime movers in the motor sports and tourism industries to the Subic Bay Exhibition and Convention Center on Nov. 28-30, 2013.

Spearheaded by the Automobile Association of the Philippines (AAP) Lakbay, Inc., the project supports the United Nations Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020 by gathering together products, technical know-how and specialists to share their best practices and experiences on achieving measurable efficiencies and simultaneously educate all stakeholders on green mobility—how we can help save the environment.

The event's theme "SAVING Lives, Costs, Planet" aptly describes its mission of helping achieve the UN Decade of Action's targets to save, over the next 20 years, up to five million lives and prevent 50 million injuries through the implementation of effective road safety measures. At the same time, the conference aims to help save the environment with the use of new technologies.

"SAVING Lives, Costs, Planet" hopes to build strong partnerships among various local and national government agencies and the private sector in the Philippines and the Asian region as well. Renowned experts from the international motoring world have been invited to speak on the challenges and opportunities of a joint global concerted and programs to tackle these. Aside from the conference and exhibits, other motoring activities are lined up for the delegates, exhibitors and the non-motoring public. World-class entertainment and production numbers that will showcase Filipino talent are in store during the course of the three-day event.

AAP Lakbay is a wholly owned subsidiary of AAP, the national automobile and only Philippine affiliate of the Federation Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA).

LTFRB Chair and transport leaders at 2nd Usapan AAP

LAND Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) Chair Jaime D. Jacoba has accepted the invitation of the Automobile Association Philippines (AAP) to be the guest of honor at the second Usapan AAP on Dec. 20, hosted by the Operators Association of the Philippines Transport (OPAT), president Alexis Ong and Confederation of Truckers Associations of the Philippines (CTAP) president Rupert Baylosis have been invited to participate as panelists on the topic, "How the LTFRB together with the Bus Operators and Truckers can improve road safety."

Usapan AAP is a new series of monthly roundtable talks with the media and government and private sector individuals involved in promoting road safety hosted by AAP in the lobby of the AAP main office on 28 EDSA, Greenhills, San Juan City. Usapan AAP begins at 10 a.m. and lasts about 2 hours. As in the June Usapan AAP which was held on Sept. 28 and featured Land Transportation Office (LTO) Assistant Secretary Virginia P. Torres and Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) Assistant General Manager Kasmeir Carlos (representing MMDA Chair Francis Tolentino who was indisposed), is called by President Aquino to attend another event, Usapan AAP will be covered by Philippine Star columnist Cito Beltran.

For more information on Usapan AAP, please call Michelle Flores or Sharon Reyes at 725-7899, the AAP Secretariat.

AAP continues training program for Emergency Roadside Service crews

FOLLOWING the success of its first Recovery and Safety training program in the AAP South Luzon Expressway (SLEX) operations center, the Automobile Association Philippines (AAP) continued the training series for 50 Emergency Roadside Service (ERS) drivers and crew assigned to North Luzon Expressway (NLEX) operations. AAP mechanic supervisor Rustelo Catalan and field safety supervisor Napoleon Herrera were accompanied by AAP Limited operations manager Jun Mundo and NLEX operations officer-in-charge Jess Felix in conducting the five-day workshops on Sept. 17, 19, 22, 25 and 27 at AAP's Pulilan, Bulacan operations center.

NLEX operations OIC Joey Pelin said that the training workshop helped them a lot in expediting the towing process and the drivers' confidence was more evident after the training. "We want to improve on service that's why we are extensively training our people. Our people are our number one asset, for without them the company can't operate," Pelin said.

The NLEX training workshops used the same techniques and scenarios from the SLEX program and similar reactions were seen among the drivers, who were taught how to analyze an emergency situation before towing and how to use the towing equipment in a faster, safer and more efficient way.

Improving the quality of ERS

Aiming to continuously improve the quality of service AAP extends to members and the motoring public, AAP's Emergency Roadside Service (ERS) team has high hopes that the training program will raise public awareness and understanding of the importance of road safety.

Asked how he would rate the training medium on a scale of 1 to 10 with 10 being the highest score, operations manager Jose Mundo replied, "I will rate it as 7 to 8, but then we started from zero and I am glad that as of now I can already see some improvements. I am sure that we can still do better."

"We will come up with a different program, with improvements from the previous workshops and focus on a few synergic areas, for example the ability to do things faster or ability to quickly analyze what vehicles to take first or vehicles to tow last," Mundo added.

Meanwhile, Catalan and Herrera noted differences in the training workshops that they conducted and concluded that the culture within the NLEX and SLEX operations differs in terms of urgency and speed.

"The drivers assigned to SLEX can perform faster in the sense efficiently but they consume more time than expected," Catalan observed." Since SLEX is a wider highway, the tow truck drivers assigned there don't have a hard time towing vehicles because there is a wide shoulder where they can park. The drivers don't feel pressured to expedite the towing process since it won't cause a traffic pile up unlike at SLEX, which is narrower and therefore obliges the ERS drivers to finish the rescue faster."

In the long run, the training workshop did upgrade the efficiency of the ERS drivers and crew, but like other activities, there will always be room for improvement. "I could say that we've achieved our goals but nobody can achieve a goal perfectly, so I would rate it 8. The other 2 points, we will achieve in future training programs. We will make sure to learn a lot more," Felix said.

ON SITE at the NLEX, AAP ERS drivers in the Recovery and Safety training program analyze how to expedite the towing of a damaged vehicle.

PTCC 2012 blasts off Nov. 3 to 4

THE 2012-2013 Philippine Touring Car Championships (PTCC) is all geared and ready to go with a four-leg series scheduled to kick off on Nov. 3 to 4 at the Batangas Racing Circuit.

Organized by the Automobile Association Philippines (AAP) and promoted by the Philippine Race Car Driver's Association Inc. (PRCDA), its partners with Yana Commercial and Industrial Corp., makers of Kumho Tires, this year's PTCC promises high-octane racing action from November to February.

AAP Motorsports director Manolo Edeza said this will be the first year in which the new technical regulations of the Federation Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA) on horsepower-to-mass shall be imposed.

Under the new rules, Division 1 cars shall have a limit of 200 horsepower-to-tonne Division 2 shall have a limit of 150 horsepower; Division 3 will be limited to 100 horsepower.

Though not part of regulation, cars competing in the series will be using Kumho Ecsta KU36 as official spec tire, Kumho being the major sponsor of the races. The Ecsta KU36 is designed for racing and delivers unrivaled dry grip with split-second steering response for maximum driving pleasure.

The dates of the PTCC series are as follows: Leg 1 - Nov. 3-4 at the Batangas Racing Circuit Leg 2 - Dec. 1-2 at the Clark International Raceway Leg 3 - Jan. 12-13 at the Clark International Speedway Leg 4 - Feb. 9-10 at the Batangas Racing Circuit For more information, please call the AAP Motorsports Department at 655-5089 local 423.

AAP SUPPORTS "DRIVE OTT". AAP represented by executive assistant for advocacies Cecilia Reyes (second from left), supported the Drive City competition of Toyota Philippines last month which tested road-qualified participants' driving behavior and knowledge of traffic regulations. Reyes congratulated Drive City Champion Del Eduardy Tolosa and Miss Tee Jennifer Jugueta together with (from left) Toni Rose Gloy of the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA), Mahar Lagisa of Toyota Philippines and Marissa Concepcion of the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines, Inc. (CAMPI).

ATTENTION—AAP MEMBERS!
The AAP-Goodyear Autocare Service Center located at 682 Aurora Boulevard, Quezon City is now open for business on Sundays starting on October 21, 2012.
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The EON sports a European-inspired design that evokes a hip and youthful vibe. Up front, the EON immediately catches your attention with its distinct hexagonal grille, complemented by clear, swept back headlamps. Flowing character lines and a gently sloping profile add a sportier elegance to its trendy build. The rear likewise makes a fine impression with stylish half-moon shaped tail lights and rear spoiler with High Mount Stop Lamp (HMSL).

Under the hood, an interestingly compact yet powerful engine adds even more oomph to this cool hatchback. The EON has an Epsilon 0.8-liter MPI engine that churns maximum power of 50 ps at 5,500 rpm and maximum torque of 7.6 kg-m at 4,000 rpm, fit for everyday driving around the metro. Besides giving ample boost of power, the EON is also remarkable in fuel economy, as it delivers best-in-class fuel-efficiency of 26.3 km/l, during long drive based on a fuel economy test conducted by Hyundai Motor Company (HMC). Mated to a 5-speed Manual Transmission, the EON's Epsilon engine delivers even better fuel-saving performance with smoother gearshift control.

And with so much more to offer, check the other features of the EON when you visit our most car dealerships. See our mall schedule below and experience all the niceties that can make you LivEON, MovEON, GroovEON, and DrivEON with Hyundai's newest hot hatch!

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SM City San Lazaro	Oct. 14-30, 2012
Sm Mall Asia Mall	Oct. 19-21, 2012
SM City Iloilo	Oct. 19-21, 2012
Robinsons Galleria	Oct. 16-22, 2012
Robinsons San Nicolas	Oct. 16-30, 2012
SM City Pampanga	Oct. 17-23, 2012
SM Center Molino	Oct. 17-23, 2012
Robinsons Place Manila	Oct. 18-24, 2012
SM City Marikina	Oct. 18-24, 2012
SM City Fairview	Oct. 18-24, 2012
SM Southmall	Oct. 18-24, 2012
Robinsons Tacloban	Oct. 18-24, 2012
Market! Market!	Oct. 19-31, 2012
Vista Mall	Oct. 19-25, 2012
Festival Supermall	Oct. 20-26, 2012
SM Lanang Premier	Oct. 21-27, 2012
SM City Marilao	Oct. 22-28, 2012
Promenade Mall	Oct. 22-28, 2012
SM City Fairview	Oct. 25-31, 2012
Pacific Mall Legazpi	Oct. 25-31, 2012
SM City General Santos	Oct. 25-31, 2012
Robinsons Place Manila	Oct. 25-31, 2012
Robinsons Galleria	Oct. 25-31, 2012
Citi The City Mall	Oct. 26-31 & Nov. 1-5, 2012

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Cary Santiago, craftsman

For the Red Charity Gala, the Middle East-trained designer gives his signature laser cutting a rest, but displays virtuoso technique, from fabric-wrapped metalwork to unapologetic draping

By Cherche V. Moral

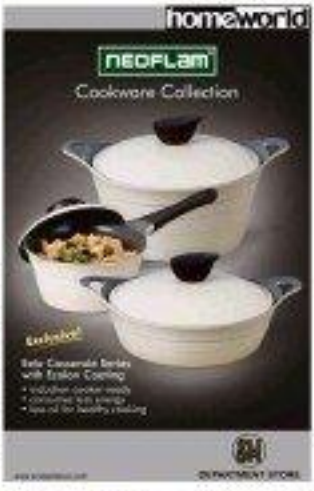
THE VIRTUAL gauntlet was thrown down three years before Lea Santiago's Red Charity Gala.

If there was ever any doubt Cary Santiago wouldn't hold up to the high standards set by Pierre Cuc and Michael Cinco, who both threw down for their respective collections for the annual benefit gala, the score was finally settled last weekend: Santiago could, indeed, wow a fashion crowd into a single bead or sequin.

The Cebu-based Santiago was confident when he told Inquirer Lifestyle that he would prove that he was on the same level as his contemporaries. He was never a fan of benchwork, Santiago said, and he expected his work to be compared with Cuc's and Cinco's, inevitable given their common background: Middle East training.

"I'm so happy and fulfilled. This is my best collection yet," he said a few days before the show.

Santiago's 35-piece origami-inspired collection (plus two men's looks) premiered Saturday at Makati Shangri-La's Rizal ballroom, filmed in some of his signature techniques (wrought iron-like couture metal work), and whipped up just enough surprises to thrill the gowns, a number of whom are his loyal clients.



JEWEL TONED pieces sporting Santiago's signature fabric-wrapped embellishwork, fabric-woven in basket-weave patterns, and origami folding and draping (right). Above and left, back and side details of a yellow satin dress.

TEAL-PIECE colored satin sheer gown Santiago's architectural curvy, the dolly-inland folds and drapes and crystal-laced patterns.

Cary Santiago, craftsman

From page B1

Couture training

It was a collection that displayed a skill honed through years of couture training in Rome and Milan, with private finishing touches that could be only been done with polish by a trained hand and a master's eye.

Santiago opened with one of his sheer silk-tulle pieces, a strapless, draped satin dress with a knotted detail on top. It featured side pockets, shown off with the exaltation of a flower girl at a wedding by Vittoria Bonjasa, who thought the various mannequin's dramatic shows would set the mood for the show to roll on.

The first suite was the black-and-white numbers, fitted black dresses draped with white fabrics that took the form of a bird, lizards, a butterfly, and combined with Pointelle-like sweeps. Cool patterns, a statement piece, the resulting three-dimensional silhouettes. Stepping to a beautiful tempo of footsteps and if Cher and Gloria were gaga with their headwork in their own fitted embellishes, Santiago was unapologetic with his drapes.

The draping gave way to the simplicity of his silhouettes, sweeping black canvases to 3D white. Images. Swathes of white fabric were folded to ashen collars and sleeves, bows and bodices, or even as winged home to duvet and long dresses.

But everyone in the audience was a fan. My sweetheart snarky mom, insists excepting them to the set of surplus folding) one said it was even, one cut of wood folded in the shape of a heart in cheesy hotel excuse.

And perhaps that wasn't the strongest part of Santiago's collection. There were indelible color and safer talent the designer used on his jewel-toned pieces, short and long dresses that sported his signature fabric-wrapped embellishwork, fabrics woven in fanciful weave patterns, and metallic origami folding and draping.

The 19-piece evening outfits showcased the depth of Santiago's technical savvy. He deftly mixed folds and drapes and metallic weave patterns.

The shift lengths were modest, mostly covering the knees, and most of the long dresses were floorlength. But there were many hints of skin just the same—a peek into the hip or thighs; a deep plunge on the front in several pieces, as well as in strap backs, and through the push-a-boo fabric weaves and cutaway.

Easily different

What's remarkable about Santiago is his ability to create two easily different looks and yet put his distinct imprint on them. Surely he didn't have the same sources in mind for the simpler-looking pieces—a flowy, draped black dress with an asymmetrical shoulder accent, for instance—and the more complex and elaborate looks. It was right that he gave his signature doth knee-calling a test for his dress, it gave him an excuse to show his range as a craftsman.

One popular designer quipped that the show didn't quite start until Santiago said out the colored dresses. And he had a point. The all-black and final segment, beautifully detailed pieces as they were, felt rather underwhelming. It didn't quite reach the apex of excitement expected to top the ones-two-punch by the colorful suite that preceded it.

The last piece, a Barry Gerstein white dress with a peekaboo that extended to the back worn by Gwen Taglo, didn't quite sum up a collection that was largely grandiose in craftsmanship and detail. It's a finish, it was underwhelming.

The second gala is on its fifth year. A project of Tessa Valdes and Rayo Tingo, it's staged to benefit the Philippine National Red Cross and the Assumption Flight School Inc.'s FAST Foundation. Anti Sotelo directed the show with styling by Ideal Blanquel, and hair and makeup by Derrick Nunez team.

Santiago is the third guest Michelin-rated designer after Pepe Lacuel, Dennis Lustico, Uma and Cinco Tingo had said that the real Oddies did not intend for the Middle East-based Filipino designers to show backless, back, but Santiago was the sexy choice.

The new Cebu-based designer, who counts Isabel Oli and Bryan Dy among his fans, was last in the Philippines in 2009, when he first presented a collection here in 2004.

Santiago showed in the wave of the collective called, if somewhat inconsistently, "Dubai designers." One after the other, they started getting names to present in various fashion showrooms.

Santiago and company are treated to couture houses that cater to desk royalty and elite. Gone then are the days they're known for often elaborate and meaningful designs. They're impressed here fashion fans. And as Tingo rightfully pointed out, their entry into the scene has kept local designers on their toes.

Now the question is, after Santiago, Dior and Gaiter, where does the designer go from here?

CARY Santiago (center), with gala organizers Tessa Valdes and Rayo Tingo, takes a bow after his Red Charity Gala 2013 collection.

SWAYING gives way to the simplicity of Santiago's silhouettes.

SKIRTS of skin in the solid black pieces—a peek into the hip or thighs, a deep plunge on the front in several pieces, as well as strap backs, and through the push-a-boo fabric weaves and metallwork.

ELABORATE draping and fashion-ogre weaving

STUNNER dress and its back details (left)

EXQUISITE personal touch detail of a dress

SHOW opener

SIMPLE strapless number with asymmetric shoulder accent.

FASHION Pink Watch, P730; Carved Ivory Watch, P930

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Visit www.tomato.ph/tomato-time.

Acclaimed 'Stageshow' on its last weekend at CCP Little Theater

TANGHALANG PILIPINO's production "Stageshow," by the kids-direction-action-playwright Mario O'Hara, is now on its last weekend at the Cultural Center of the Philippines' Tanghalang Aurelio Tolentino (CCP Little Theater).

Remaining schedules: Oct. 19-20, 8 p.m.; Oct 20 and 21, 3 p.m.

Poet, playwright and filmmaker Fil Monsaver said: "'Stageshow' is a rainbow-hues romp through a bygone era of our childhood. Pero, 'kid-tobe released!'"

The founder's sons Rodin (who acted, also snatching the show's OST, "Kindness day") opening, third while "Stageshow" "needed a bit more work, it does stick-headed jackass in the right, color and textuality of Mario O'Hara's creative vision."

But, two days later, he tweeted: "Yesterday, I saw an unlucky "Stageshow" by Saturday night it had all come together stunningly. Acrobatic this precision.

SCENES from Tanghalang Pilipino's "Stageshow," written by Mario O'Hara, directed by Chris Millado

THE INQUIRER/NIÑO JESUS ORBETA

Concerts at Paco, Luneta

Concert at the Park presents the Bukidnon Unplugged Band under the musical direction of Dennis Macdino on Oct. 21, 5 p.m. in Rizal Park, Manila.

Paco Park Presents features young pianist Richard Vincent Escandalo. He will play on Oct. 19, 8:15 p.m. in Paco Park, Manila. Thea Perez hosts.

'Portrait' at Sala Theater

The Philippine Drama Company Sala Theater, at cor. Ortigas Ave. and Connecticut, will be staging Mark Joaquin's adaptation of Rose Tremain's "A Portrait of the Artist as Filipino," on Oct. 20, 8 p.m., and Oct. 21, 2 p.m. at the Philippine Drama Company's Aurelio Tolentino Sala Theater at 49 Shaw Blvd., Brgy. Kapitolyo, Pasig. Tickets will be served after the show.

The play is directed by the PDC Sala Theater founder and director Nick Cruz de Rogers.

Call (02) 687-7218/682, visit www.facebook.com/TheFilipinoDramaCompany, Twitter or twitter @PhilDramaCo

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Robinsons Supermarket brings the Snack Festival back for more people to enjoy snacking on a wide assortment of chips and beverages. This time, shoppers will also have a chance to win a Suzuki APV and many other prizes as well.

Part of the festival is a Snack Fair happening on October 27, Saturday at Robinsons Supermarket Summit Ridge Tagaytay. Bring the entire family or go on a barkada escapade to enjoy the great deals and bonding activities.

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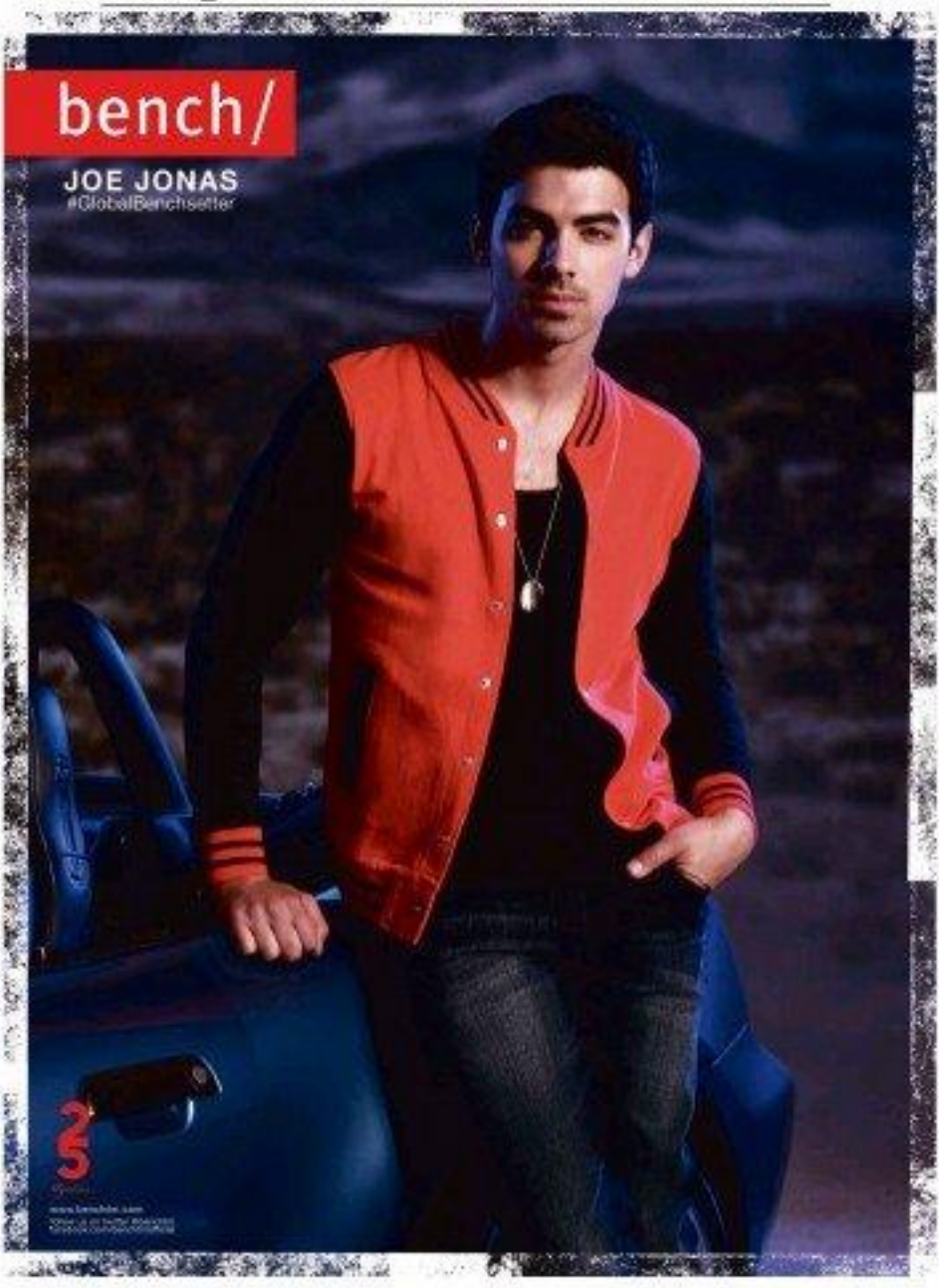
STORY ON PAGE D3



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Handsome basketball players shun swooning A-list women

LIZZETTE Cojuangco, mni, Mariana Zamora

THE PHILIPPINE Tatler Magazine turned a glamorous 11 years old at the chummy of high society last Sept. 19, dubbings. It was relax friends to an intimate cocktail party at the chic Buddha Bar on Salcedo Avenue, Makati.

Welcoming the invitees were editor in chief Reine Dan Diego, managing editor Chit Lijauco, GM Lynne Pelino, not to social and lifestyle editor and the Tatler staff, no mentioned.

Scrumdidous voucher made traffic some chun noted that night, but to the almost 200 executed in the scrumptiously furnished three-story establishment in Poor Place, the awful conditions outside didn't matter. Glamorous people unabashedly enjoyed the great company and feasting on the mouth-watering luxury bar chows, such as mashed dumplings, lamb curry, assorted sushi creations, caviar profiteroles, Buddha Bar's signature chicken salad and exquisite French macarons and chocolate mousse bites.

A list scrumdidous included Gloria Eder Zobel de Ayala, (who graces the cover of the Tatler September issue along with Marigarita Delgado-L Josua Palanca Lhuillier, Sofia and Patxi Elizalde, socialeggs Isaac Peralta-Valdez, Tito Sup, Inno Sotto, Regina Albert and Silvana Formoso, and Vicky Zubiri.

Reyes Blanco's team of good looking basketball players kept to themselves at one corner of the bar, too shy to circulate or socialize. Were they not comfortable with that kind of a crowd? Or maybe, they didn't want to spend time having their photos taken by or with the swooning women on their side?

But one thing's for sure, they were a standout in that A-list set, dubbings.

Well, we all know that no cocktail hour would be complete without drinks to soothe dry throats. A variety of spirits was served, from vodka to wines, cocktails and beer, including San Miguel beer. Chilled Moët & Chandon champagne and Belvedere unfiltered red Tatler's special champagne cocktail specially concocted for the event were also served.

Before they left, guests received giveaways of prestige brands such as Versace eau de toilette, Van Cleef & Arpels eau de parfum, and Tatler's September anniversary issue, reminisce of a very scrumdidoxright, dubbings.

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maxence Arnaiche

Photos by Alec Von Hagen
powered by PHASE P4AC system

Bulgari Serpenti

Then we moved on to the next must-be-seen-in-town, Bulgari's magnificent launch of the five-point line of jewelry watches and leather pieces, at the Bulgari Lounge, Shangri-La Makati.

We were treated to an awesome hard-to-beat Italian bare, all seamlessly done by Shangri-La's high-end Red wines, pulang gee.

One couldn't miss among the chi-chi invitees cool couple Alcon Bonares and Nikki Belo of the renowned Belo Clinic, which helps me to look good, and provides me with my much "talked-about" skin.

Its Grenada perfumed superbly, overacting the guests who were sipping their cool-aid Moët Chandon champagne, dubbings.

The big surprise took place outside the lounge, as 12 models in white flowing gowns were revealed wearing the divine Serpenti collection. They then entered the lounge to mingle with guests and give them a closer look on the jewelry line.

Guests of the glam women guests were grabbing their cue for the take home, as the cash register got hot from the endless ringing of the bars.

Got the picture, dubbings? Aprés all that, our chilled out at Price where there was a chance for Venjoe Florenca.

(The 2012 Emperor's collection is available at Bulgari boutiques at Greenbelt 4, Ayala Center, Rockwell, Newport Mall, and Rustan's Shangri-La Edsa, Mandaluyong and the Bulgari Watch Corner at the 2/F, Rustan's Department Store, Makati.)

Venjoe Florenca

He's smart, talented, and one of the country's in-demand designers, dubbings. He's Venjoe Florenca, and he was given a star-studded farewell bash with style by the Price Style Suites at the Peter Lanaury Club, tonight. The send-off was given since he was leaving off to San Francisco to further hone his talents in fashion design. This would bring him one step closer to "achieving my dreams of international ac-cess," he said so.

The happening got on a roll with the Southernaire Sisters Judith imitating everyone with an eclectic playlist, upon a short presentation from some sponsors. Jockey a fashion film by Venjoe Florenca showcasing Filipino's most popular sportswear-modded by Jessica Feng.

The was followed by a fashion show.

Among the muses were GMA talents Jennine de los Reyes and Kris Bernal. "Venjoe designs clothes that are flattering to a woman's body. He dress I'm wearing here is amazing, fit!" said De los Reyes.

Kris Bernal said she had nothing but the best wishes for Florenca. "It was really an honor to be one of his muses, especially since I'm such a fan of his work," the actress said. "I wish him good luck on his studies!

BULGARI country manager Merle Ratigbak (far right) with Bulgari Watch Asia operations exec Allison Chee and Nina Maciel (second from right), and Judy Sicat Arribado (leg

MODEL sisters of Bulgari's Serpenti Collection: Bea Schoeller, Bruce Baja Bertram, Christy Tiauzon

ENID Cosio, Elizabeth and Helen Lee, Baby Cruz

JENNY Tresangel of NBC Public Relations, Bernie Ortiz, Venjoe Florenca, Simeon Farrar of CNN Asian Corner, Celine Gabriel-Lin, Chiara Sevilla

VINCE and Claudine del Rosario with jockey Philippines' Matthew Lim

KIKI Bernal, Quennie Salunar, Ruby Gan, Jaimee Uy, Jaeriana Fong, Mary'Ann Tan, Eddie Castillo, Sanya Smith and Camille Villanueva

I'm sure he'll soon an again when he comes back."

Price was packed. But one couldn't miss seeing Rep. Raven Ringpis, young and talented designers Eric de los Santos and Martin Bautista, and Price owners GP Reyes and Erik Gan, in love, dubbings.

We wish Venjoe well as he rams a new chapter in his promising career, di bala, palanggas!

Megaworld celebrates true luxury, partners with Habitat for Humanity

Megaworld Corporation, the country's leading township developer, showcased its multi-purpose property in the Makati Central Business District, Bonifacio Global City, as a night of luxury entertainment and charity at its Homage launch. Hosted by Tim Yap and Jessy Mendiola, the event highlighted CREST CITI. This, an investment of P7.68 billion in Bonifacio Village's most prime location. It also launched Megaworld's partnership with Habitat for Humanity. For every unit sold as "Home Central, Megaworld will donate part of the amount to Habitat for Humanity to build houses for their chosen beneficiaries.

"I FEEL GOOD SO... will house the first and only Modern Unit in this side of Makati CBD and will feature tranquil surroundings such as lush greenery, waterfalls, cabanas, indoor, multi-purpose lounge and infinity pool."

The launch also saw Megaworld's partnerships with Habitat for Humanity Philippines' Executive Director Monica Feria-Tinta and

Celebrating the scent of a beautiful life

Lancome launches its first fragrance since 2008 in a luxurious island getaway

ALLIES Vendors, Lancome junior product manager Shasna Ek, Lancome group business development manager Ani Pamela Picazo-Garcia, L'Oreal corporate communication manager

HOLLYWOOD superstar Julia Roberts is the face of La Vie Est Belle, Lancome's fragrance for fall. At left, L'Oreal Lux GM Charisse Hernandez-Chua

By Cheche V. Moral

PRIVATE PLANES, an exclusive, secluded island, personal butlers, private villas, black or dinner under the stars: It was just the kind of day executive of the product that macro be unveiled.

Luxury French cosmetics firm Lancome has not had a big fragrance launch in more than six years. And so if to make up for the absence, it went all out one recent evening to usher in La Vie Est Belle, its newest scent for fall, in a launch so fancy the company couldn't have done it grander had it been held in just another five-star hotel.

La Vie est belle—a beautiful life—commenced one recent morning when Lancome, headed by Oswaldo Lizo-general manager Charisse Hernandez-Chua, flew a few members of the media on private, nine-seater Cessna Grand Caravan planes to the members-only Isabelo Island Club off Quezon province.

The call for the new fragrance, headlined by Hollywood superstar Julia Roberts, has a gratifying narrative. It's about empowerment, of defying the norm and social dictates, of finding happiness in one's free form and in the personal freedom each have to remain whoever it is he is. It's a manner of thinking, a way of life, and a self-affirmation.

In presenting this narrative, Lancome chose a rather literal way of interpreting the good life. Upon arrival in Subiem, we were met by our personal butlers, each properly coached, and knew all of us by name. Throughout the overnight stay, they were a courteous but non-obtrusive presence whenever we need.

Subiem Island is a 500-hectare membership-only resort club 25 minutes by plane from Manila. Being built on seven thousand islands, it's one of the Philippines' few villages slated for completion before Christmas. One of the villages, Bali, was finished just in time for the Lancome event. We were the first guests at Bali, where we were welcomed at a private villa.

The afternoon was spent at leisure, as activities are organized for renowned hosts hunted and hunted city life: horseback riding on the beach, practice archery shooting, paddle boarding, lounging on the sand sipping mojitos as the sun went down.

Created by three perfumers

La Vie Est Belle is the first major fragrance of Lancome since 2008's Magnifique, which had Anne Hathaway as its face. This new eau de parfum, now available at the Lancome boutiques in Greenbelt and at all Rustan's counters, was created by three perfumers, an understanding that took three long years and over 1,000 versions before finding the perfect composition.

The fragrance composition opens with the scent of six blossoms with the floral notes of Iranian orange blossom and tuberose jasmine. Mixed into the middle is patchouli, and it's further sweetened as the base with the powdery gourmand accord of vanilla, tonka beans, blackcurrant and pear.

The pink juice is housed in a flacon reminiscent of a 1949 original square bottle with a circle vessel at the center. It pearlescent gray organza ribbon is tied around the bottle's neck.

La Vie Est Belle was presented at the Island's art cluster, held at the Subiem Island Club's spa, an outdoor setup that was totally decorated by a stylist Arcade. The pool was covered in fiberglass for the evening, where a fully decked-out table was set up for the five-course gourmet meal, the scent of the new fragrance wafting in the air. The entire ground was lanked in pink lights.

"Lancome's business is right to 10 percent for fragrance in the Philippines," said Shasna Ek, group business development manager of Lancome. "But with La Vie Est Belle, we're aiming for at least 15 percent. We haven't really focused on fragrance, but we see a large potential, since the Philippines is a perfume country."

L'Oreal Philippines is facing a transition this quarter as it bids goodbye its longtime general manager, Luc Olivier Marquet. A Filipino, Noriel Ylanan, formerly of Unilever and Johnson & Johnson, is taking over Marquet's post.

La Vie Est Belle is aimed at young, working women and extends to the inner woman, sophisticated mother, Ek added.

There has been tremendous growth in luxury skincare and cosmetics beginning last year, she said. "If gone really, really fast. Lancome passed the highest sales in so many years. Skincare is still big, but the biggest growth is in makeup."

This year, Lancome introduced the young actress Emma Watson as the face of its makeup line, in an effort to capture a younger market. But it's not ditching its core timeless airplane icons.

"We want to keep our iconic products and build on them," said Ek. "but we also want to cater to younger people."

LUNCHTIME team donates school bags to kids in Subiem Island

Sultry peepers with the wave of a wand

BEAUTIFUL EYES start with perfect eyelashes, but not all of us are blessed with long, wonderful lashes. That's why we buy false eyelashes or go to the salon for eyelash extensions. Well, false eyelashes are hard to put on properly and extensions require aftercare and commitment like making sure not to sleep on your stomach, not scrubbing the eye area clean and going to a professional to have them removed. Lash savant Thelma Bating has an answer to yield the dramatic lengths and fullness we want. Voila, ladies, say goodbye to falsies and messy adhesives and say hello to Strideverse Lash Extender (P1,695) and Illamasqua Duo (P990).

This lash extender is making quite a buzz because it claims to create longer, fuller, stronger lashes. With just a stroke of the brush, you can achieve lucious picture-perfect eyelashes. Just brush on the lash extension that adds hundreds of tiny natural lash fibers enriched with panthenol. Apply this to your lashes and watch as Rapunzel-like tresses appear.

MAKEOVER 911

Kinny Salon

Sipping Lunchbreak Delicious (P20 Gallon; P30 grande; P50 Bodwell; P65 MEC; P65 Greenhill 3); Botany Godfather.

As the Earth's rivers hold recently, members of the media picked their favorites. The top picks were Pure Earth Cleanser and Toner in oil-free oily skin and minimize the appearance of gaping pores; Celene de Corps body cream for very dry skin—it penetrates the dryest and thirstiest of skin like the soles of feet, hands and legs plus it does not leave a strong odor that could clash with one's fragrance; its gain body cleansing oil; Lip Service; Perfection Lash Extender; Mother Nature; The Face Shop Eyeshadow Palettes; Maybelline Mascara Define-a-Lash; Bobbi Brown Long-Wear Gel Eyeliner; Benefit Roller Lash Mascara; Urban Decay Eyeshadow Primer Potion; Clinique High Impact Mascara; Kiehl's Ultra Facial Cream; Shiseido Benefiance Wrinkle Smoothing Eye Cream; Estee Lauder Double Wear Stay-in-Place Makeup; Clarins Instant Smooth Perfecting Touch; Lancome Teint Miracle Foundation; Bobbi Brown Corrector; Laura Mercier Secret Camouflage; Nars Radiant Creamy Concealer; Dior Diorskin Nude Air Powder; Shiseido Sheer and Perfect Compact; Make Up For Ever Pro Finish Foundation; Bobbi Brown Shimmer Wash; Nars Blush; Dior Diorskin Nude Air Blush; Shiseido Face Color Enhancing Trio; Bobbi Brown Eyeshadow; Nars Eyeshadow Duo; Make Up For Ever Eyeshadow; Dior Diorshow Mascara; Shiseido Smoothing Cream Eyeliner; Clarins Eyeliner Pencil; Lancome Le Crayon Khol; Bobbi Brown Lip Liner; Nars Lip Pencil; Dior Rouge Dior Lipstick; Shiseido Lipstick; Clarins Lip Liner; Lancome Lipstick; Bobbi Brown Lipstick; Nars Lipstick; Dior Rouge Dior Lipstick; Shiseido Lipstick; Clarins Lipstick

Erwan Heussaff: Why he has a penchant for suits, moccasins and perfumes

Despite constantly being associated with two of the country's most popular women, Erwan tries hard to stay out of the limelight. Yet his impeccable taste, work and personal life seem to pull it back in

DIOR Homme

BERSHKA'S cap picks: Sexy poly-wool jacket

CARMEN Print-to-Style Fiber-Glass (stitch rulers wanna)

TYRAMEE is keep things on the down low when you're the brother of model Sahara Heussaff and the boyfriend of the It girl of It girls, Heine Cardin. By association alone, Erwan already deserves mention, not on his own, he's built a life and a CV worthy of our name. Streetwise, Erwan does not aspire to be an actor or model. He prefers to juggle work as a business development manager at Seaman SEK, join the occasional bash. I over the pay-ons from fests to the Empire Hall this year and it is emblematic of a well-tailored suit. It is straight-cut, slim-fitting, simple, yet has an understated elegance to it.

BACKSTAGE PASS

Isabel Rees

"I believe in dressing appropriately because... the way you look really speaks loads about your personality and how you carry yourself. People who dress loud are probably more likely to be quite lively. People who don't pay attention to what they are wearing might be shy or just interested in different things. On my part, I just wear clothes that I'm comfortable in, are simple yet have a hint of modernity, and highlight who I am and how I want to be portrayed. A friend like Sam enjoys both the classics and the more "new" pieces, which is great for a well-balanced man.

The **rarest article of clothing** I've tried is from... Since I was working in Hanoi for a couple of months in 2006 and I went with some colleagues to a local restaurant. I've always been an adventurous eater and I will try anything once, however I will only eat something again (even if it's good-looking)... If it's tasty. Since I was the only man at the table, I, apparently, was reserved a treat. This was in the form of a hearing cobra head in a shot glass containing cobra blood. It basically tasted like blood and it was so small I didn't manage to bite into it before it went sliding down my throat, throbbing along the way.

I have a fascination for... mocassins. I just find them so convenient. I dress up really quickly and tend to forget socks, so I just go straight for the moccasins. They are slowly making their way back onto the shelves and more and more men are wearing them. My favorite brand is Bass.

What makes me die more than my corporate tooth is... the pressure of running objectives and a sense of responsibility that is sometimes overwhelming. I know a lot of people give the word "corporate" a negative reputation; I guess you just really have to love it to appreciate it. It's a tough, stressful environment. But not basically part of a team that needs to be successful in running and bringing a company to the next level, reliably is quite daunting.

I wouldn't hesitate to splurge on (name) because... I believe it really makes people more well-rounded and is an important part of growth. I have a running competition with one of my sisters, and until a 40-something countries stand, she still beats me out by about five. My parents have always been avid travelers and this is a bug that hit me when I was young. So even when I was still in middle school, I'd ask if I could travel alone and they would let me. I'm happiest when I'm lost in a new city or when I'm staring at a view I know I'll never see again. When I was in high school, I made it a point to always take a vacation abroad with my friends every summer. In college, every summer, I took jobs abroad as well. I've been solemn fishing in New Zealand, bungee jumping in Canada, skydiving my last throughout the Indonesian Peninsula, shark diving in Tahiti, body boarding in Maui, bathing in a hot bath in northern Japan, and even dog sledding in Hanover, Siberia, where I washed for two seconds.

BODY Glide

I seriously don't spend much on... grooming and hair products. I'm happy with a good face of sunscreen and some, a nice-smelling shower gel/shampoo and a good razor. The only thing I do spend on is perfume; my favorites are Hermes, Dior Homme and Kenzo.

When traveling, my toiletry bags kit essentials are... a good Gillette razor, a small Hermes perfume (Hermes), a couple of conditioners and Garnier hair wax.

During triathlons, my helpful body product is... Body Glide and Spray On sunscreen. Body Glide helps reduce chafing at the neck or arms from the tight body suits while the sunscreen is essential on long training days where if you didn't have any on, you would probably suffer a bare strobe.

Check out Erwan's favorite threads at Sete (2/L, Power Plant Mall, Rockwell Center; 207, 887 Mall of Asia): poly wool jacket, P12,499; cotton stripe shirt, P5,499; poly wool pants, P6,499; suited sneakers, P5,499; leather buckle belt, P2,699.

His choice perfumes come from Beauty Department Store.

NASHA'S Skull Bracelet

Tough glamour

THOSE WANTING to roughen up their look can take inspiration from the rebellious attitude that characterized the beauty aesthetic that marked the 1950s: black eyeliner, defined eyebrows, pronounced cheekbones, and pink lips.

And with unconventional standout pieces such as a pair of Louboutin-studded platforms, Marie's skull bracelet and Givenchy's bright yellow envelope clutch, biker chic has never looked so glamorous.

CURATED INSPIRATION

Erica Concepcion-Reyes

1950s 'Rebel Without a Cause' look gets new-century update

INSPIRATION: Marlon Brando and Mary Murphy in the 1953 film, "The Wild One"

TIGI's Goddess Gloss #9

CHRISTIAN Louboutin's Very Mic in Green Strass

LEVI'S Appliqué Studded Shorts

JUICY Couture's Viva La Juicy

MAC'S Florida Constellation Blush

2bU LIFESTYLE
Lilit Thelma Sison San Juan Contributing editor Luis Carle San Juan

Level up and be counted

It's time for the youth to register as voters

By Hans Gabriel Abanador
Student correspondent, St. Louis University, Baguio

PRINCESS, 17, HAS never voted in her life, except perhaps to elect the class president through a show of hands. She had lived through four presidencies—Ramos, Estrada, Arroyo and Aquino—numerous senators and congressmen, and thousands of public officials meeting the wheel of her country. She has elected none of them.

She is one of the almost 12 million Filipino youth expected to cast their votes in the upcoming elections next year. Like many of her peers, Princess finds herself confused by the more than 10 Philippine voting registration. She isn't even sure if she can register for voting in the upcoming election. She will turn 18 in March, two months before the elections in May.

Princess has to find out soon if she can vote next year, as the deadline for registration looms, Oct. 31. Fortunately, her confusion, shared by 12 million of her peers, has not gone unnoticed. A number of nongovernment organizations are helping people like her navigate through registrations.

Youth Vote Philippines has partnered with the National Youth Commission (NYC) and the Commission on Elections (Comelec) to help promote voter's registration among the Filipino youth.

"We are now working very closely with the NYC and Comelec to make sure all efforts are aligned. This is for 2013 and 2016," stated Chino Jorge, lead convener of Youth Vote Philippines.

Princess encourages to vote for the next election, according to Ching, "For she has

Level up and be counted

From page B1

is show proof that the will turn 18 before May."

In an estimated number of 12 million, first time voters like Princess could prove to be a game changer in the upcoming midterm elections. Twenty-five-year-old Karl Santiaguan, who mobilizes the youth for Bam Aquino, encourages the youth to vote because it is "our responsibility."

"We envision," said Karl, who also served as president of the Ateneo Loyola Schools Student Council in 2007.

Not as high

He had been going around the country, and bluntly observed that enthusiasm is not as high as in 2010, when he proselytized found himself mobilizing the youth for Gerard Salonga and other usual mainstays.

"That's because it's a midterm election," shared Karl. "But those who I have met expect more specific policies and programs from the leaders they want to vote for."

For fourth time Philippines, which advocates for issue-based 2013 elections, this is good news. Ching Jorge advises the Filipino youth to vote for leaders who can follow up on their promises.

"The Filipino youth should vote for leaders who have sincere intentions for the country, who can put the nation's interests above their own; who can go beyond promises to actual plans and programs that can benefit the people."

For his part, Karl dispensed this advice to voters in the 2013 elections: "Vote for those who can define specific solutions to our problems and those with enough track record to prove they can follow through with their specific promises."

Their arc, of course, unsurprising politicians who offer free transportation for first-time voters to register. With a number as extensive 12 million, it comes as no surprise that, this year's midterm politicians are eager to introduce themselves to first-time voters in the hope of securing their vote come 2013 election. Ching Jorge does not see this practice as strictly repugnant, worldview of the capacity of voters to politicians.

"It works both ways...I believe voters are a little smarter now. The politicians wants to assure himself of votes, but at the same time we interview the team, but of registered youth," explained Ching.

"Part of the responsibility of every citizen, youth included, is to make the right decision when choosing our leaders."

Karl expressed his faith in the Filipino youth, many of whom turned out to support the candidacy of then Sen. Benigno S. Aquino III..

"I have seen young Filipinos do extraordinary things to build the communities, and lives of people outside their communities. Many young people are volunteering for Gawad Kalinga, launching their own social enterprises, partnering with farmers and fisherfolk, or teaching part-time, and these are just some concrete examples of their contributions to nation-building."

He challenges them to be more than just the voice for their personal interests.

"Anyone equipped with communication skills or the power to tell a story also carries that responsibility to air the stories of those who cannot."

Closing her own break from college this year, Princess will take a bus to her home province. She will spend her stay catching up with friends and relatives. Hopefully one day, while on vacation, she will find herself at the municipal office of the Comelec, eager to register for the first time.

'Lift your school spirit –and let your colors float!'

(2)LUBEE University Floats cover in four colors.

CELEBRATE SCHOOL pride as Jollibee, in partnership with 2bU, invites students from universities and colleges nationwide to show off their colors with the "Lift Your School Spirit and Let Your Colors Float!" promo.

Groups of three to four get a chance to win up to four round-trip tickets to Boracay each of leading carrier Cebu Pacific, three day-two night accommodation for four at the newest, coolest resort in Boracay, Bfad, as well as a barkada blowout of P5,000 worth of Jollibee gift certificates.

To join, submit a photo (high-resolution softcopy in CD format and a 5R printout) of your barkada of three to four showing off your school spirit, together with your name, school, year level, course, and university. Label the photo "Jollibee University Floats." It can be you and your friends in a fun pose with your school mascot in the background while you each enjoy Jollibee University Floats, a group of friend-ly-ent different-ials-ices of a refreshingly jollistic gusto wearing your school colors as you take a sip of different varieties of the product.

Send it to us via e-mail to us.subspot@yahoo.com; Subspot Building, Cambria Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City, 1229, along with your group representative's name, address, telephone number, e-mail address, and a short caption answering the question, "How do you lift your school spirit and let your school colors float with Jollibee University Float?"

Along with the first-prize winner, the first runner-up will receive P5,000 worth of Jollibee gift certificates, while the second runner up will get P3,000 worth of Jollibee GCs.

Winning creative and original entries will be published in 2bU. This promo is also in partnership with the Philippines' largest national flag carrier, Cebu Pacific, which operates the most extensive network in the Philippines with 32 domestic destinations including Coron, Busuanga, Boracay, Cebu and Davao, and Bfad, the newest boutique-style resort at prime beachfront property in Station 3, Boracay.

Promo period is until Nov. 7. The deadline of submission of entries is on Oct. 7.

(For complete mechanics, visit the Save Room of www.inside.com.ph.)

Cebu Pacific is the largest carrier in the Philippines in transportation industry offering its low-cost services to most destinations and routes with Jupiter Right Airports, as well as the Philippines first-ever all-Airbus fleet.

(Visit www.cebupacificair.com.)

Located at a point benefit-from property in Station 3, Boracay, Bfad is a newly built, eight-room hotel that offers boutique-style comforts at budget rates. Bfad combines the best of Boracay's world-renowned and uniquely vibrant party culture and an unrivalled serenity that nature can offer.

(Call (63-2)4109000, 6362000 or 7.NOTHE, visit www.bpacoast.ph.)

PHILIPPINE Dance Cup will be held Oct. 20-21

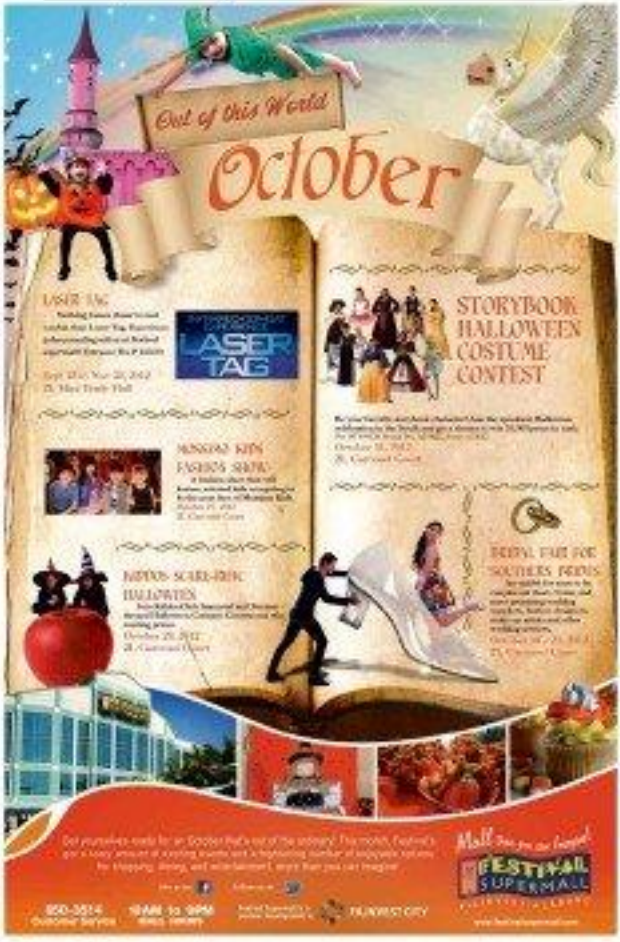
Philippine Dance Cup this weekend

THE PHILIPPINE Dance Cup, a top dance ensemble competition, will be held Oct. 20-21 at the Meralco Theatre.

Categories include dassical ballet, national dance, folklore or folkloric character dance, and contemporary or lyrical dance.

The Philippine Dance Cup started in 2008. Because of their exposure through the contest, winners have been offered positions in many professional international companies, such as the Alabama Ballet and Singapore Dance Theatre.

For this year's competition, the contest will have a foreign adjudicator—Jenny Lo Ka-Chi-tim of the Hong Kong Ballet. She will join the local judges Alyza Bellano and Lalliet Perez.



In the *pocket*

By Jessica Villanueva
contributor

Make yourself a one-of-a-kind pattern-pocket tee

THE MOM sewing these pattern-pocket tees on the Internet, and lately, I've been spotting these beauties hanging on mall racks, too. That's why I decided to rise to the challenge and do DIY pattern-pocket tees with you. Let's get started!

Things you'll need:

Plain shirt
Printed fabric
Paper and marker/pen/pencil
Scissors
Iron
Fabric glue
Ruler
Thread, needle and pins

Any plain shirt will do, but I suggest you use a white shirt, as it goes with almost any color of printed fabric. When it comes to the fabric, I would propose something that is easy to sew, especially when you're not going to use a sewing machine.

Procedure:

1 Using your pencil and ruler, make a pattern on a paper that measures 6" lengthwise and 5.5" crosswise, with the vertical line on the middle measuring 7" and the two diagonal lines that meet on the tip of the vertical line measuring 5.5" each. Cut the pattern off the paper so you can use it as a template for your pattern pocket. Trace your template on the printed fabric, then cut through the lines you drew.

Note: Make sure your measurements are accurate; you don't want your pockets to have irregular sides.

2 Using your marker, put one mark on every side so it will be easier for you to identify where to fold. Next, start from the top. Folding it towards. Plug your iron and press it on the crease so it is folded properly.

3 After ironing a fold, flip it open and put fabric glue in between, close the fold, and iron it again so it is well placed. Repeat from other side, then end on the two diagonal folds, one at a time.

4 Next your shirt on a flat surface and comfortably place your pocket patch to the shirt. The placement of your pocket depends on where you want it to be, but be sure to try it on first before sewing so you're sure it's on your preferred position. Just to give you an idea, on my round-neck shirt, it measures approximately 3" from the collar and 2" from the armpit seams.

5 Finally, attach your pocket by carefully sewing by hand using your thread and needle, or with a sewing machine. Sew the three sides of the patch, leaving the top side to act as a pocket. Remove the pins, and you're done! You've just made a pattern-pocket tee!

Christmas time is imminent, and surely you'll be spending more money than usual on presents. DIYs can help you save more, so you can splurge on other stuff, plus the fact that there's no one wearing the same thing, as you made your own piece. I hope you find this guide useful, and I hope you had a great time playing with patch positions like I did. Remember, why buy when you can DIY!

Take it to *the street*

Street dancers show off their moves in this year's Chosen Ground competition

By Nicole Go Tiong
Contributor, Ateneo de Manila University
Ian Lorenzo

STREET DANCE isn't an art that is seen to many due to its culture and uniqueness that leave a small reach for it. Being a very expressive form of movement of the 21st century, it has managed to spread everywhere, developing new forms, as seen in modern movies such as "Step Up: Revolution," "You Got Served," "Stomp the Yard" and more.

In the Philippines alone, hip-hop is seen everywhere, from the streets to competitions, parties and commercials.

It's literally all over the place—wherever you are or wherever you come from, street dance has become a phenomenal way for people to connect and express themselves.

Being the entertainment type that we are, we know that it is, sometimes, has materialized a new technique known as "Jamboree" Podcast, originally La Panzoom and popularized in France around the '90s, is a discipline that focuses mainly on overcoming obstacles from one point to another, unconditionally using a combination of running, climbing, swinging, vaulting, leaping and rolling.

Being a fresh breed, it was very fitting for the UP Street dance Club to use it as their theme for this year's Chosen Ground 8: Dominant competition, which was held in SM City Marikina on Sept. 29.

The theme was taken into consideration for the name, since it was literally under ground, perfect for all those high jumps and intense moves.

For those unfamiliar with this annual event, Chosen Ground is a venue for dancers from all around the metro to join and compete for not only the title, but a cash prize of P20,000. It was a great chance for passionate dancers from all over to get together, build a strong team, and go for the gold.

A crash course and demo on how to perform outdoor movements were offered early on, before the show. The event proper was kicked-off with a performance by the UP Street dance club, then followed by intense solo battles which eventually led to the competitions proper.

In between groups, world-class teams that performed in the recent World Hip Hop 2012 competition such as Legit Misters, Freshi Plus, and A-Team were guests as well.

Taking home the title was Junior Sow Seniors, followed by Nasyonal Dance Company and Team Vibe as the first and second runners up respectively.

It was definitely a successful event, and there's no doubt that next year's battle will be even better, and that the teams will come back hungry for more.

A colorful way to dress up your feet

COLOR YOURSELF Gelatto during your sunkissed trek to the beach. Its Rainbo line offers eight cool colors: red, green, black, purple, green, yellow, blue, pink and orange to suit your mood and outfit.

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And to make it even more exciting, Rubillo's newest Animal Print line is now here, a comfy and trendy way to dress up your feet.

Gelatto is available at Gelatto and Mall Shops boutiques and other outlets all over the country.

GELATTO July Rainbo and sock line (left)

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Dennis Q. Velarde

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One more baby

COLUMNIST Ervin Santiago reports in Japanese tabloid Bunshun about Jodi Sta. Maria waiting on "Kris TV": "I want to have another child. Already. Our son needs Pampi Lacuesta's sister a baby brother."

HEARD

HALLE Berry: "I hope, within my industry, I've made some small contribution that will carry on."

Outstanding 'woman of color'

Halle Berry reflects on her life choices, achievements and Whitney Houston

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Marlowe V. Salgado

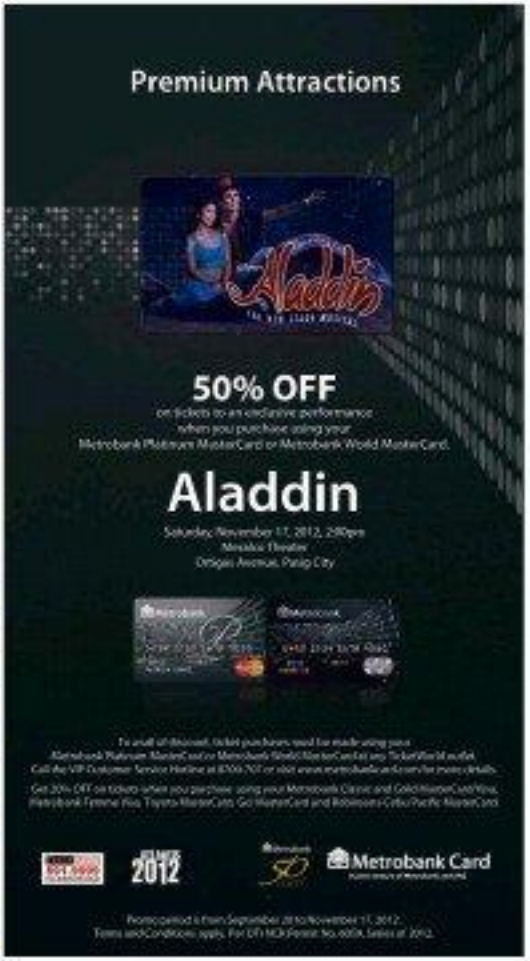
LOS ANGELES—Halle Berry was passionate in her explanations of how the late Whitney Houston inspired her.

"I remember when I first really became aware of her," said Halle, gorgeous in a sweater, pants and boots to a meeting room at the Beverly Hilton. "I was probably 16 or 17 years old in the mid-1980s. At that time, she was not only a huge talent. Arguably, there is no voice like Whitney's. She was a very special artist and musician—a woman of color so talented to achieve that level of greatness, able to cross the barrier. But she was also able to affect the world in such a global way. That was very inspiring to me as a young girl. It gave me a reason to dream and hope. She was someone I identified with in a very fundamental way."

Halle revealed a list of the singer-actress even in her troubled later years. "We all maybe didn't understand what was going on with her... I desperately rooted for her to come back," said the winner, who starred with Tom Hanks in "Cloud Atlas," an epic sci-fi drama directed by Lana and Andy Wachowski and Tom Tykwer.

Added the Oscar and Golden Globe best actress winner: "I was very sad when Whitney died the way she did ... I really want her legacy to have a proper place in our history." Halle joined Usher, Britney Spears, Ll Cool J and others in "We Will Always Love You: A Grammy Salute to Whitney Houston," which will be shot in a TV special in November.

"We got to caught up in the last decade of her life that it overshadowed her greatness in a way," Halle said. "Hopefully that tribute will remind all of us about her contribution ..."



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Krizza little thing called love

Talent search winner talks about gay marriage, Twitter haters and Aiza Seguerra

KRIZZA Mae

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

SOME THINGS have changed since Krizza Mae won the 2009 "I want search's 'Protégé'" last year.

The young singer's voice has become deeper, said Gading de Jesus, the network's assistant vice president for Entertainment TV.

At the start of the second season of "Protégé," which concludes on Sunday, Krizza voiced nostalgic about her years audition in Cagayan de Oro last year. "I felt like quitting; the other contestants were so good! Of the 40 finalists in the second round, I was no. 36." The wish for her turn was to turn, she said.

The struggles to the competition and the judges' praise for her way were joining the his fellowmate have made her tougher, Krizza told the business.

Backers

In the most contemporary on he, Krizza was thanked for the breaking of her mentor Aiza Seguerra and Aiza's girlfriend Chea Iselo—one of the few openly gay relationships in the local music scene. Krizza said she spent sleepless nights over that.

She denied her Twitter account that is home to the said. "Before I started attaining my second birthday."

Krizza pointed out that she and Chea were done: "We haven't talked for a while. But, should I see her, I'd certainly say, 'hi.' She helped me during the competition."

In her days, Krizza said, they had not discussed the matter, even as they avoided closely on her with the debut album. They focused on the music, Krizza said. Vina is my producer, Jessie could go ahead and talk. As long as we're happy we'll be okay."

Super collaborator

Also was "super supportive," Krizza said. "For the album we recorded the duets we had done on the show— If I Could and Word Be-tween My Wings." Aiza contributed new songs to the album, which is co-licensed by indie label Blackbird and distributed by Universal Records. Aiza wrote the lyrics I'm Home to Byan Gondoyle to "Gang Makikiam Ako" and composed the music (with lyrics by Joel Trinidad) to "Look My Way." Plus, Aiza shot the CD's cover photos.

Krizza said "Protégé" changed her life "for the better and for worse, too. But I am thankful because not everyone is given one."

She is glad that she is now able to help her family in Cagayan de Oro. "I give half of the P1 million cash prize to anyone," she said. "Ang sasaya dito, other half is for the book."

She wants to set up a fund-drive to look in front of their house. And Krizza is thinking of making out her own candy-ear into other genre from "Protégé".

"I see myself as an performer who sings straight from the heart," Krizza said. "I want to prove that one doesn't need to belt out to be considered a good singer."

Most of all, she has learned to speak her mind—for instance, her stand on same-sex marriage. "I support gay rights." He said, she said. But some people quote the Bible to condemn others. Our God is a God of acceptance and forgiveness."

Strong opinion such as this could take her out a few Indian more friends, but she remains fearless. "I like to go back to Twitter...so I can promote my new albums."

HEARD

FILMMAKER Joel Lamangan on the latest development in the promotion of his film "Kubrador." The country's bet to the Best Foreign Language Film category of the 2013 Academy Awards "Tuwing-mo Rizal, our acclaimed video agent, and the 120-based politician recently hired are handling our theatre campaign. We're even considering, through Twitter, to the American Film Market this November to open more screenings in the world. We've scheduled to screening for the Academy voters in the next few weeks." Maricel Soriano

MOVIE TIME

GLORIETTA 4

1: RIDE THE ASWANG CHRONICLES (2D)
12:00, 2:15, 5:30, 7:45, 9:55 AM
2: BAT (2D)
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 6:55, 8:00 AM
3: LOOPER
11:00, 2:20, 4:55, 7:35, 9:55 AM
4: SWASHBUSHING IN THE TOWN (SWEN 2
12:00, 2:00 AM, 4:00, 7:10, 9:25 AM
5: ARGO
11:00, 2:05, 4:55, 7:35, 9:55 AM
6: THIS GUY'S IN LOVE WITH U MARE
12:05, 2:15, 4:55, 7:40, 9:55 AM
7: ALEX CROSS
1:00, 3:15, 5:25, 7:55, 9:45 AM

GREENBELT 3

1: RIDE THE ASWANG CHRONICLES
1:55, 3:45, 5:35, 9:10 AM
2: THIS GUY'S IN LOVE WITH U MARE
2:00, 4:20, 6:40, 9:00 AM

GREENBELT 5

1: LOOPER
1:00, 3:35, 5:40, 7:55, 9:25, 11:10 AM
2: ARGO
1:30, 3:55, 6:10, 8:40, 11:10 AM
3: ALEX CROSS
2:20, 4:55, 6:50, 8:50, 11:00 AM
4: THIS GUY'S IN LOVE WITH U MARE
1:10, 3:30, 5:50, 8:10, 10:30 AM
5: SWASH 3
1:40, 4:00, 6:10, 8:30, 10:50 AM

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

1: LOOPER
1:00, 3:40, 5:50, 7:15, 9:00, 10:40 AM
2: THIS GUY'S IN LOVE WITH U MARE
1:30, 3:50, 6:00, 8:05, 9:55, 10:40 AM
3: BAT (3D)
1:30, 4:40, 6:50, 8:00 AM
4: ALEX CROSS
1:20, 4:00, 6:30, 8:40, 10:40 AM
5: ARGO
12:00, 2:00, 3:00, 5:10, 7:20, 9:30, 10:40 AM

ALABANG TOWN CENTER CINEMA

1: LOOPER
1:00, 3:20, 4:00, 5:50, 6:40, 7:30, 9:00 AM
2: ARGO
1:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:00, 9:20 AM
3: ALEX CROSS
1:40, 3:55, 5:00, 7:25, 9:10 AM
4: THIS GUY'S IN LOVE WITH U MARE
1:05, 3:15, 5:15, 7:20, 9:20 AM

MARIKINA

1: ARGO
11:55, 2:15, 4:35, 6:55, 9:15 AM
2: RIDE THE ASWANG CHRONICLES
11:55, 2:45, 4:55, 7:05, 9:15 AM
3: LOOPER
1:35, 3:15, 5:15, 7:05, 9:05 AM
4: THIS GUY'S IN LOVE WITH U MARE
11:15, 2:35, 4:45, 7:00, 9:15 AM

MARKET! MARKET!

1: THIS GUY'S IN LOVE WITH U MARE
12:00, 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00 AM
2: BAT (3D)
12:00, 2:15, 4:30, 7:15, 9:15 AM
3: ALEX CROSS
12:00, 2:30, 4:45, 6:55, 9:00 AM
4: RIDE THE ASWANG CHRONICLES (3D)
12:00, 2:45, 4:55, 7:05, 9:15 AM
5: LOOPER
1:30, 3:45, 6:25, 9:00 AM
6: ARGO
1:30, 4:05, 6:35, 9:00 AM
7: SWASH 3
12:30, 2:30, 4:50, 7:05, 9:10 AM

TERNORA

1: BAT (3D)
1:45, 3:45, 5:45, 7:45, 9:45 PM
2: ARGO
12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30 AM
3: LOOPER (3D)
12:30, 3:00, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 AM
4: RIDE THE ASWANG CHRONICLES (3D)
1:30, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00 AM
5: SWASHBUSHING SWASH 3
1:45, 3:45 PM, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 AM
6: ALEX CROSS
1:30, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00 AM
7: THIS GUY'S IN LOVE WITH U MARE
12:45, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00 AM

ABREEZA

1: LOOPER (3D)
11:30, 2:15, 4:40, 7:00, 9:30, 2nd
2: ARGO
12:00, 2:30, 4:50, 7:20, 9:40 2nd
3: THIS GUY'S IN LOVE WITH U MARE
12:15, 2:30, 4:45, 7:00, 9:15 2nd
4: ALEX CROSS
11:45, 2:00, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00 2nd

FAIRVIEW POINT

1: ARGO
1:40, 4:30, 6:40, 9:10 PM
2: RIDE THE ASWANG CHRONICLES
2:00, 4:15, 6:30, 8:45 PM
3: LOOPER
1:30, 3:55, 6:20, 7:15, 9:30 PM
4: THIS GUY'S IN LOVE WITH U MARE
12:05, 2:45, 5:00, 7:15, 9:30 PM

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Ongoing: Alabang Town Center

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TERNORA
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Ongoing: Marikina University Center

ABREEZA
Ongoing: Abreeza Business Park

FAIRVIEW
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Mila Kunis is 'sexiest woman alive'

ACTRESS Mila Kunis has been dubbed "sexiest woman alive" by People magazine in its November issue.

Kunis, 29, one-time star of the TV comedy "That '70s Show," was lauded by the mag's magazine on its website as "the sweetheart, opinionated, talkative and funny movie star that we've all known since she was nine."

As a grown-up, the author of Rhianne electrified audiences with a solid performance opposite—and somehow in bed with—Oscar winner Natalie Portman in the 2010 ballet movie "Black Swan."

Rumors up this year included Jessica Chastain, Jason Statham, "Fast Jane" star Gabourey Sidibe and newly divorced Katie Holmes.

Rarer joins the ranks of past People cheese, including Drew winners Charlize Theron and Halle Berry, and last year's winner, Blake Lively. — Reuters

KOGER Mears

Rushes Special

Books that flout his beat

NEW YORK—"Pirates of the Caribbean" star Johnny Depp has teamed up with Harper Collins to publish books that flout his beat, some by lawyers and others by relatively unknown authors, the company said Tuesday.

In the "Infamous Bible" collection "Depp will publish titles that reflect his diverse interests and passions," Harper-Collins said, in a statement released by its New York headquarters.

The first new title from the imprint will be "The Discredited Tales of Both Orders" by journalist Douglas Brinkley, due out in 2015. "The book will tell the twisted straight-on stories of history pertaining to the rock-and-roll legend," Brinkley said.

In memory "Infamous Bible" will publish folk singer Woody Guthrie's only fully realized novel, "House of Earth." Guthrie completed the novel in 1947 but did not seek to publish it.

Depp, the 49-year-old Hollywood heartthrob, said he would do his best "to deliver publications worthy of people's time, of people's pocketbooks." AFP

JOHNNY Depp

'Bond on Bond'

Peppered with fun facts and chesky asides, author Roger Moore's book—"Bond on Bond: Reflections on 50 years of James Bond Movies" (Lyons Press)—looking back on the golden anniversary of James Bond on-screen, is a total 007 fun.

Digs after pages of photos display the villains, the gadgets and the girls, marking "Bond on Bond" a kind of 007 family album for those who grew up with the British secret agent.

Moore says he developed his approach to the character after acting a few front one of his Bonding'somewhat "Bond did not particularly enjoy making

Bye, Russell

STARS—Hollywood star Russell Crowe and his wife Danielle Spencer have split up, a report said this week, with speculation that the Oscar-winning actor could face a $18M+ million-per-year lawsuit.

The couple have separated amicably after nine years of marriage, the Sydney Morning Herald said, with both determined to protect their five children, aged eight and six, from any publicity. AFP

Outstanding 'woman of color'

Hilaire Berry and Olivier Martinez

HALLE and Joe Breedlove in "Cloud Atlas"

As for her next career little and that it is "in ever-evolving thing. I've had the opportunity to work on some amazing projects with some amazing people. I've talked on projects that didn't quite turn out the way anybody would have hoped. But that's the journey of a career. It's about telling the stories, making connected to what you believe in and always looking to grow and take risks."

Halle said she has changed—as a mother to Nahla, her daughter with ex-boyfriend Gabriel Aubry, a model. "As a woman, it's such a rite of passage to carry a baby, give birth and then become a mother. It's something that I'm learning about every day."

Halle broke into a lovely laugh after saying that what she needs right now is to take time for Nahla. "Because she asks me every day for one. I don't know she's here to tell me. It just might not show up. We're going to visit everybody for that, I have a feeling."

Reserved from stage-competitive fan. Hotel and former backed plays David Andrea, and once romantically linked to Michael Jackson Moore and several models Halle declares: "I've had some great loves... You have heard about the tragic ones. But the ones that aren't so tragic don't seem to get as much interest. I'm passionately in pursuit of that. My daughter, the love of my life, inspired four years ago. As far as great love in our life and that feels really good."

Engaged

In March the cute French actor Olivier Martinez announced that he and Halle were engaged.

"I'm working on it," the end of his French language proficiency. "But the truth is, and I was told this very strong by Olivier, I will work on it when I go to France. Because what I also learned is that in my life, trying to learn French in America is probably one of the hardest things I could possibly do."

Both she and Olivier plan to move to France soon? "It's not quite decided at this moment, but it will be, shortly," Halle said.

A judge is reportedly set to make a ruling this week on Halle and Gabriel's custody battle over Nahla.

Multiple roles

In "Cloud Atlas," where each actor plays multiple roles, Halle has six identities, framed on David Mitchell's novel-length book. It's true there are seven—Luisa and Indy Sheboygan ("Match" bilogist) and Tom Ewell ("Tom Ludd Rose"). Luisa—played by James Marsh novels and the first transgender director in Hollywood—has been nothing public appearances to promote the movie.

"We collectively called those characters Luisa, Indy (Andy) and Tom," said Halle with a smile. "By the time we got to reduced, mean, tired and Tom had spent so much time with Tom[e]. They were both both his best and came up with a new blueprint called our scripts, which was in some ways similar to Tat book. But in many ways, it was a departure from the book in order to create a cinematic experience. By the time that happened, when I met David, it was no one else could through of the script in Germany."

Fortunately David trusted the set sometimes. Halle said, he never crossed the line from writer to director. "He was like a kid in a candy store. He was watching the actors bring his words to life. I heard him say 'I never imagined you playing it like that,' but that was great. That was the greatest compliment more than any of us could feel from the writer."

As for the Wachowski siblings, Halle said: "They really do direct jointly. Lana believes it as well, did not take over. They have a really wonderful, respectful relationship. They never raised their voices. There was no disagreeing in front of us. Whenever they did find, and Tom once they had to work a script of this magnitude, it was some other kind of magic. It's hard to know where the actor ends."

She added: "What I loved about them is that they have one voice. Lana would sometimes start a sentence and Andy would finish it and Andy would start a sentence and Lana would say in the end, 'Yeah, that's right, I agree with that.' They would every it further."

As who yelled "Instead" or "Cut"? "Sometimes it was the DP," Halle replied with a laugh. "It was so there was of them. So relevant was about us to become the way we don't this, sometimes they'd be far away in the video village somewhere."

Legacy

On what she thinks would be her legacy, Halle, the first black woman lover or win an Oscar for best actress, said, "I just hope that when my son hears this title said that Nahla, my daughter will feel proud of his studies. That's really important to me. I felt very proud of my mother for the sacrifices she's made for me and the kind of woman I have matured into. I just hope my daughter feels the same way."

As for her work, Halle said "Hope, within my industry. I've made some small contributions that will last my son, at least a woman of color. I've definitely made inroads. I'm part of that. If I do nothing else I've done that."

Summing up, the soft-spoken Halle said: "I tried to be a good human being. I want people to hopefully feel that I took the time to care about others and not just used it, that I actually put it into action. I made choices based on love and kindness and not conflict, which is also what our movie is about."

Read the interview at reuque.com/halleberry. Follow her at http://twitter.com/reuquestar.

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ENTERTAINMENT

MTRCB need no longer screen films for FDCP cinematheques

By Dayani San Diego Jr.

TWO GOVERNMENT bodies tasked to oversee the film industry have forged a landmark agreement that could spur the growth of local cinema.

The Film Development Council of the Philippines (FDCP), represented by chair Briccio Santos, recently signed Memorandum Circular No. 07-2012 with the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB), represented by vice-chair and officer-in-charge Emmanuel R. Rodriguez.

Under the MOA, films to be

A CONCERT FOLLOWS THE WEDDING
After Coco Martin and Julia Montes, in "Walang Hanggan's" Binondo and Kasintha, "wed" in ceremonies that reportedly pushed the program to the top of the ratings on Monday, the cast is all set for the "Walang Hanggang Pasasalamat" grand concert the Sunday at the Big Dome. "Walang Hanggan" concludes in two weeks.

Grace gets Lovi's support, whether she asks or not

By Marinell L. Cruz

ACTRESS Lovi Poe vows to support Ormoc mutual kid of half-sister Hilary Erlene Poe Llamanzares, whether or not the latter asks for help.

"Given the chance, I'd campaign for her," Lovi told reporters at the press conference of "Ekstra: The Amazing Chronicles," her latest movie.

Lovi and Grace are daughters of the late King of Philippine movies, Fernando Poe Jr., who ran for president in 2004 but lost. He died of a heart attack in December of the same year.

Lovi is Susan's (Poe's ex-husband) daughter with former commercial model Rowena Moran, who is he worked with in the 1987 film, "Kapag Puno na ang Salop."

Grace, her daughter with actress Susan Roces, was appointed chairperson of the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board in 2010. She is a great contributor of both the United Nationalist Alliance (UNA) and the administration coalition, Liberal Party.

Lovi is convinced that "Filipinos need someone like Ate Grace. She had a lot of plans. I'm sure she knew about checks and she could carry out those plans."

However, Lovi was mum when asked if she would also campaign for her ex-boyfriend, former Ilocos Sur Rep. Ronald Singson, who is again running for the post. "I'm not from Ilocos," she said. "I don't think I'm needed there."

Did the rugrat her past connection with Singson, who was convicted of drug charges and jailed in Hong Kong in 2010?

Lovi replied: "The connection will always be there ... I went through the experience with Sandro without regrets. I learned a lot from that. I'm OK now."

As for the persistent rumors romantically linking her to actor John Lloyd, Lovi said: "It may sound cliché-ish, but we're really just good friends. He has been married me, and that's the truth."

Lovi and John Lloyd topbilling Iwanis, for leading roles in "Ekstra," to be "a really good actor. He's adorable and charming, though he plays a bad boy in this movie. I'm a pleasure to work with. He takes care of his co-actors. He doesn't act like a big star."

"Ekstra," directed by Erik Matti, opened Oct. 17 in theaters nationwide.

MEGAWORLD Lifestyle Malls
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

NEW WORLD CINEMAS

1 Loopers
2 Alex Cross
3 Taken 2
Argo
4 Ekstra: Aswang Chronicles
5 Argo
6 Ekstra: Aswang Chronicles
Taken 2 2D
7 Loopers

EASTWOOD CINEMAS

1 Ekstra: Aswang Chronicles
2 Alex Cross 2D
This Guy's In Love with you Mare
3 Skyfall
Loopers
Argo
6 Ekstra: Aswang Chronicles
Taken 2 2D
7 Loopers

Lucky Chinatown CINEMAS

1 Ekstra: Aswang Chronicles
2 Argo 2D
Loopers 2D
3 Skyfall 3D
Alex Cross 2D
4 This Guy's In Love with you Mare
₱100 MOVIE MADNESS
Sept. 3 – Oct. 31 | 10AM – 9PM

DOLBY DIGITAL

MTRCB need no longer screen...

From page 01

screened in FDCP's confirmed cinemathèques need no longer be screened by the MTRCB. These include local and foreign films shown in malls as part of the annual Cinemalaya and Cinema Rehistro exchange programs.

FDCP earlier teamed up with Shangri-La and SM malls for its cinemathèque projects. It also has cinema film exchange partnerships with countries including South Korea and the European Union that hold festivals in local malls.

"The targeting films can now be shown without prior exemption from the MTRCB," Sotto said. The MOA addressed the two agencies' "deep concern for the survival and sustained progress of Philippine cinema," he added, "and empowers both filmmakers and audiences."

He noted that it allowed moviegoers to be "mature and intelligent... especially those who own many from the usual mass market classes."

At the same time, filmmakers are given the freedom "to truly express their voices... without having to compromise and hurt their options in terms of creative decisions."

Sotto gave credit to former MTRCB Chair Grace Poe for championing the MOA, Poe told the Inquirer that the MTRCB fully trusted the FDCP to be responsible in screening "high-quality, internationally recognized films."

"FDCP is committed to simply abide by the need to classify films according to their respective audience suitability," Sotto stressed.

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THE BEST ACTION MOVIE OF THE YEAR ★★★★★
THE MOST INTELLIGENT BLOCKBUSTER OF 2012 ★★★★★

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A. LIPPI — BY JESS MERCADO

PUGAD BABOY — BY PH. LUGOD

DICK TRACY — BY JOE STATON AND MIKE CLARK

LOVE KNOTS — BY ELIZABETH CHONGLO

BABY BLUES — BY JERRY SCOTT

RIKO MACHINE — BY MIKO ABION

SEDI — BY DANIEL SHELTON

NUTTS — BY PATRICK MCDONNELL

SHERMAN'S LAGOON — BY JIM TOOMEY

DILBERT — BY STEVE KELLEY AND JEFF PARKER

TULDOK — BY MARA COLL

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCES DRAKE

THIS BUSY TODAY You know well the importance of keeping your mind and body in top condition. Whether you use a local health service or belong to one that will fast integrate you into a new one, you'll find it necessary to maintain the habit, especially since today's influences may cause you to be accident-prone.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Be sure your creative attitude is in your best interest. Positive light and favorable position advice, which potentially generate your financial security.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) This is a good chance to boost your interests and put your time to good use for the next 12 months. Go, Taurus, go! Don't let anyone or any situation hold you back.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Don't look for the best for tomorrow; you've had enough of that today. It's important to keep your mind working well. But watch it your back, because this will happen for you for the next year.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) At this point in your life, you have a chance to learn about self-control and how much success you don't like away from this. Don't say it to the Blue Ribbon.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) You have a popular new character and you don't necessarily like you can find a way to get along with and be successful. This is a good time to take some risks, others and especially to get attention with the way.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Today you'll get much better than this. You put your name on a lights like you. All of you will get a personal prescription for enhancement that.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Your ability to communicate, plus a chance to travel or get further education, will elevate the you're becoming can make the most of this.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) You can benefit from the wealth and resources of others in the coming year. Make sure a positive attitude and keep your position open!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) It's time for you to be more creative in your dress and in the way you present yourself. Now, perhaps, you could begin with someone older or wiser.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) You continue to look for ways to improve yourself and surroundings, because they will enhance the career you. You can't better job under duress or another boss. Positive.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) This is an especially good, favorable year for business. Make your good fortune and your career a reputations.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) You have the will and sheer positive attitudes you need. Harness this strong year, in addition, family relationships will be more successful and harmoniously generous.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. For more puzzles go to www.sudoku.com

Concepts Sudoku — By Frank Longo

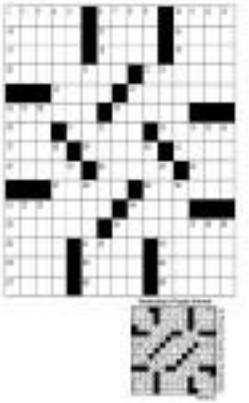
			5		6	2		
3		4		9				
								1
		5				9	4	
	2						3	
	6	7				8		
8								
				1		3		7
		9	2		7			

Difficulty Level: ★★★★

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

DOWN



PHILIPPINES' Ian Nicole Schwarz (left) wears it up with an indigenous Japanese string instrument together with a new friend from Okinawa and Russian delegate Ekaterina Meglinskaia, during an unlikely event for 2012 Miss International pageant.

Miss Int'l online voting ends tonight

By Armin Adina

FILIPINOS can help boost the chances of the country's bet to the 2012 Miss International beauty pageant Nicole Schmitt of winning the title by voting for her at the Internet until 10 p.m. tonight.

To vote, one can log on the pageant's official website www.missinternational.org and click the link to the contestant's Facebook account, then select Nicole's image (No. 11).

The delegate with the highest number of votes will automatically advance to the semifinals. The winner will be crowned on Oct. 23 by outgoing queen Maria Fernanda Cornejo from Ecuador.

The Miss International pageant is looking for an elegant, sensitive, classic young woman who is strong and independent and can graciously influence others, says Nicole, the 2012 Bob Arum Philippine International.

And she believes she fits the bill.

The German-Filipino law student was interviewed by Jeanne Bates-Tennant at the Glorietta 5 Mall in Quezon City before her recent departure for Okinawa, Japan to compete against some 60 delegates from other countries in the 52nd edition of the Miss International pageant.

Nicole said she has never faced a lot for the competition. "I had to set aside my first 2 months in Sydney, Australia, as I would train at the said contest for the national pageant. I moved away from my family, so I'm living alone here, basically leaving everything, taking a chance and for this."

She explained: "It's a dream of mine. I joined more before and I felt like this opportune, this part of my life a bit closed off. So I had to come back and give it another shot because I know if I didn't, I would always regret it and wonder 'what if?'"

Nicole first joined the national pageant in 2007, where she advanced to the semifinals.

Aside from the pondering of her family and Philippine based fans who sent her messages of encouragement via the Internet, Nicole's desire to give Binibining Pilipinas another shot was heightened by her close of relatives in other competitions abroad.

She placed second in the Miss Teen Philippines pageant when she was 16 and was crowned Miss Mindanao in 2006. Nicole won the Bluebell Queen statewide search in 2007, and the Miss Philippines-Australia pageant the following year.

Among all the international beauty contests, the Philippines has been most successful in the Miss International pageant with four titleholders...Corazon Gruet (1964), Aurora Pijuan (1970), Melanie Marquez (1979) and Precious Lara Quigaman (2005).

From 'Glee' to gloom

VIEWFINDER

Nestor J. Torre

AFTER three successful years on the tube, the "young musical" TV show, "Glee," has upped and run amok in storytelling at its peak, but to go for yet another season, it's either it or its resident characters, particularly four high-school and dueling with "real" life in college as it of the workplace.

In theory, that sounds like a natural expression of the series' plot and character development. In actuality, however, it has generally resulted thus far in a jarring change of tone, from giddy fun to, um, fun to some other mood up the show's suitably hopeful premise.

To be sure, the series still might be pointing out that this happens to all young people as they continue to grow up, so it's nothing to get alarmed about.

The time after high school graduation can be like "the morning after" a drunken binge, as some characters put it last season: a host of depression are in for the overshoot course.

Last year, however, the disappointments and other disorders developed to a point where even the couples breaking up left and right. When the series seemed to dole up the emotional pillage was downright disturbing.

Relief in many key relationships combined and given up for lost, where do we go from here?

Less emotionally, we understand that major changes need to be made to open the series up to other possibilities, and to make room for new characters to take the storytelling into different directions that can accommodate fresh viewers and insights.

However, the pitfall that from "Glee" to "gloom and doom" has been to over-telegraph that we find ourselves confused and confounded.

We think that the new season's adjusted focus will be on how new challenges will test some characters and key relationships' mettle—only to learn to emerge more strongly and temperately on end.

Treated in the confident and capable of hands sealing they will prove their love for one another, and it will all be rosy and not just dreamily neglectful from then on.

Aside from the show's "old" characters, the new season has introduced new students and glee club members—guys and girls with distinctly gay vibes (she's a great singer Melissa Benoist's Marley Rose; Nicholas and Gary Mazzaro's characters are dropping it out storylines in the "adult" world, we can expect their new preferences to generate fresh excitement in their show mates.

So, it looks like "Glee 4" will have a shifting locus, from "still in school" to "real life" with its many new challenges. Making sense of that never complete shifting scenario will test both the patience and the viewers, as for casual storytelling is called for, more than ever before.

Will the show be up to it? At the moment, the verdict on the issue is still decidedly in a state of flux, but we trust that, after a few more minutes, the series' new complex-compound storytelling will call energy as an insightful viewer.

Director still jarred by Tux member's sudden death

"I'M STILL emotionally jarred because everything happened suddenly," said Freddie Isaacs of Eric Asuncion, member of the classic vocal harmony group Tux who passed away Monday night after suffering a massive stroke.

Asuncion was 58.

Isaacs—Eric's longtime musical director who had known Asuncion for 30 years—said the impression that the group was scrapping up rehearsals at Tux member Manny Aguilar's house when Asuncion suddenly slumped on the floor and lost consciousness.

Asuncion was rushed to the United Doctors Medical Center in Quezon City, where doctors were unable to revive him.

"We will be remembered for his clarinet, full bass, and the rumbo and beats he brought to his performances," Isaacs said.

Two—before other members of Cecile Bulalacao, Jovie Dionisio, Danny Silva, Mooet Silvestre and Pepe Soares—have represented the country in various music festivals around the world, and has collaborated with artists such as Basil Gonzalez, Regine Velasquez, Lea Salonga, Gary Valenciano, Martin Nievera and Jose Mari Gallero.

Asuncion's remains lie at the St. Ignatius Chapel in Quezon City, and will be cremated on Friday.

He is survived by his wife Cheryl and sons Patrick and Pam. —Allen Pedroche, contributor

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LOOPER

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TWILIGHT SAGA BREAKING DAWN PART 2

THE GUYS IN LOVE WITH I MARE

ALEX CROSS

BAIT

2D

SHANG CINEPLEX

1 ALEX CROSS

2 ARGO

3 LOOPER

4 THE GUYS IN LOVE WITH I MARE

TAKEN 2

CONCEPT 360

POWER PLANT CINEMA

TAKEN 2/THE GUYS IN LOVE WITH I MARE

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SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR CONSULTING SERVICES FOR PROPERTY AND PROCUREMENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

The SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES now calls for the submission of eligibility documents for the following project:

PROCUREMENT STAGE	PROJECT	PROJECT ALLOCATION	NON-REFUNDABLE FEE
PART I	CONSULTING SERVICES FOR PROPERTY AND PROCUREMENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (Pre-Bidding - as to scope of project)	Php 5,000,000.00	FREE
PART II	Bidding Proper		Php 5,000.00

The following schedule of activities shall be strictly followed:

SUBMISSION / OPENING OF ELIGIBILITY DOCUMENTS FOR PRE-BIDDING	ISSUANCE OF BIDDING DOCUMENTS TO SHORT-LISTED BIDDERS	PRE-BIDDING CONFERENCE OF SHORT-LISTED BIDDERS	SUBMISSION / OPENING OF BIDS
OCTOBER 23, 2012 (MONDAY), 10:00 AM Office of the Deputy Secretary for Administration and Finance, Rm. 602, 6F GSIS Bldg., Roxas Blvd., Pasay City (POSTING AND ADVERTISEMENT NO LONGER IN EFFECT)	FROM RECEIPT OF NOTICE OF SHORTLISTED 9 AM-5 PM (MF) 2 PM-5 PM - (SAT) SUN (DAY) 9 AM BAC Secretariat Office, Rm. 401, 4/F, GSIS Building, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City NOTE: Bidding Documents shall be issued upon payment of the non-refundable fee stated and be posted/ sent through email/	NOVEMBER 13, 2012 (MONDAY), 10:00 AM Office of the Deputy Secretary for Administration and Finance, 6th floor, 602, 6F GSIS Bldg., Roxas Blvd., Pasay City NOTE: Pre-Bidding Conference shall be open to all shortlisted bidders. Bidders who have not purchased the Bidding Documents shall not be allowed to participate during the meeting.	NOVEMBER 26, 2012 (MONDAY), 10:00 AM Office of the Deputy Secretary for Administration and Finance, Rm. 602, 6F GSIS Bldg., Roxas Blvd., Pasay City NOTE: Bids may be submitted before the due of the deadline at the BAC Secretariat Office, Rm. 401, 4/F GSIS Building Roxas Blvd., Pasay City

1. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at the opening of the financial proposals.
2. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated based on a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion.
3. The BAC shall draw up the shortlist of consultants from those who have submitted Eligibility Documents/Expression of Interest and have been determined as eligible in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act 9184 (RA 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act", and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR). The short list shall consist of 5-8 prospective Bidders who will be entitled to submit bids. The criteria and rating system for short listing are:

Evaluation Criteria for Short Listing	Percent Distribution
A. Completed contracts	30%
B. Ongoing contracts, if any	10%
C. Staffing Manpower Complement - Consultants	40%
D. Number of Experience	20%

4. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the IRR of RA 9184.
5. Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines.
6. The Senate of the Philippines shall evaluate bids using the Quality-Cost Based Evaluation Selection (QCBS/CQB) procedure. The criteria and rating system for the evaluation of bids shall be as follows: sixty percent (60%) for the Technical Proposal and forty percent (40%) for the Financial Proposal. The criteria and rating system for the evaluation of bids shall be considered in the Instructions to Bidders.
7. The contract shall be completed within the following schedules:

PROJECT TIMELINE
1. Implementation and migration must be done in six months after issuance of Notice to Proceed
2. System development, customization, installation, testing and training should take approximately 180 days (i.e. six (6) months after receipt of Notice to Proceed)
3. Final Acceptance

8. The SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES reserves the right to reject any and all bids, annul the bidding process, or not award the contract at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.
9. For inquiries, please call the BAC Secretariat Office at telefax no. 552-6601 local 405 c/o Rose du Castro / Mark Theodore Magbuhos.

(Sgd.) **ARNEL JOSE S. SAÑAS**
BAC Chairman

ANGLO-EASTERN
CREW MANAGEMENT PHILIPPINES, INC.

We have immediate Vacant Position for:
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Duties Include:
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- The collection of complaints (EPs) for the Principals by way of forward planning and good personnel management.
- Ensuring an effective crew system for the Principal is maintained.
- Ensuring appointments are effected at an early stage to allow for pre-sea training and pre-departure requirements and to ensure joining dates are met.
- Identifying training requirements for seafarers and arranging same accordingly through the Training Center.
- Maintaining sea staff movements and information on the company's network computer system.
- Liaising regularly with both the Senior Fleet Manager and Vice Operations Manager on:
  - forward manpower planning
  - recruitment needs
  - training needs and development
  - potential new vessels to crew/management
- Reporting to the Principals on all seagoing personnel matters.

Qualification:
- The applicant must be a Management level Marine Engineer, preferably a Chief Engineer, and should have experience in Fleet Management in a shore based environment.

Applications along with c.v. should be sent by email to
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PROVINCE OF LA UNION
City of San Fernando
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO BID

The PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT OF LA UNION through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites eligible and reputable contractors/manufacturers/suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following contract:

NAME OF CONTRACT	LOCATION	BRIEF DESCRIPTION	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT (P)	CONTRACT DURATION
1 unit MOTOR VEHICLE	Office of the Provincial Governor, Provincial Capitol, San Fernando City, La Union	Specifications: Engine Model: 4HE1-TC, Type: CC Inter Cooled, 4 Cylinder, 16 valve, DOHC, Turbo Intercooler, Displacement: 5.2L, Maximum Output (Horsepower): 150/2600, Maximum Torque (Nm/Rpm): 350/1400-2400, Transmission: 5 Speed M/T, Fuel System: Direct Injection Common Rail, 2345, 2345/2500, Suspension: (Front) Double Wishbone with Coil Spring, Inner rigid axle leaf spring, (Rear) Rigid axle suspension with leaf spring, Steering System: Rack and pinion with power assist, Tires/wheels: 245/70 R17 115 alloy wheels, Brakes: 4 wheel disc brakes, Fuel tank capacity: 90 liters, Standard Features: Air conditioner, Driver and front passenger airbag, ABS brake system, Radio and CD player with 4 speakers, Power windows and door locks, Power steering, Tilt steering wheel, Body color bumpers, Body color door handles, Body color side mirrors, Rear window defogger, Color keyed floor mats, Color keyed cowl vent grille, Color keyed headlamp bezels, Color keyed tail lamp bezels, Color keyed front fog lamp bezels, Color keyed rear bumper, Color keyed grille, Color keyed door moldings, Color keyed wheel flares, Color keyed rear step bumper, Color keyed rear window louver, Color keyed rear window louver, Color keyed rear window louver

Republic of the Philippines

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

National Capital Region
DOLE-NCR Building, 947 Muñoz St., Malate, Manila
Tel: 400-6242 Fax: (632) 400-6241 Email: ncr@dole.gov.ph

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permits:

Name and Address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/ Citizenship	Position
SMS HOLDING INC. 1447 Pasig Boulevard Brgy. Kapitolyo, Pasig City	Bhavesh Dinesh Patel Indian	Vice President – Finance
WISE KNIGHT TECHNOLOGY, INC. 16/F PCEC Plaza Tower 2, 6815 Ayala Ave. cor. Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Lip Kheong Sy Malaysian	Customer Service Representative
WISE KNIGHT TECHNOLOGY, INC. 16/F PCEC Plaza Tower 2, 6815 Ayala Ave. cor. Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Ming Rusy Tan Malaysian	Supervisor
WISE KNIGHT TECHNOLOGY, INC. 16/F PCEC Plaza Tower 2, 6815 Ayala Ave. cor. Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Mou Suan Koo Malaysian	Supervisor
SCHNEIDER ELECTRIC LANE CORPORATION 40/F Robinsons Equitable Tower, ADB Ave., cor. Poveda Rd., Ortigas, Pasig City	Felipe Calor Schaffer Spanish	Executive Assistant Manager
WISE KNIGHT TECHNOLOGY, INC. 16/F PCEC Plaza Tower 2, 6815 Ayala Ave. cor. Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Kok Kwong Tan Malaysian	Supervisor
JACOBACCI ARIERA TENOWITZ CORPORATION F. Zobel St., Salcedo Village	Monica Sanger Indian	Finance Officer
SHOPWISE SHOPPING CORP. Pasig St., Villa Arca Subd., Mandaluyong City	Bahvi Kavita Indian	Collection Officer
CAMP GUIRO DEVELOPMENT INC. 900 Park Trade Centre, Investment Drive, Madrigal Business Park, Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Kyoungjoo Jane Korean	Operations Manager
PHILRISE GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT CORP. 3/F, Bldg. Unit 201 - 1001, Cam. Lumiere, cor. Don Pedro St., Brgy. Poblacion, Makati City	Yongcheol Park Korean	Sales Marketing
PHILRISE GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT CORP. 3/F, Bldg. Unit 201 - 1001, Cam. Lumiere, cor. Don Pedro St., Brgy. Poblacion, Makati City	Ko Jin Kim Korean	Sales Marketing
BAYVIEW TECHNOLOGIES INC. 10/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Ave. cor. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Kanokrat Techobanoowan Thai	Marketing Executive (Multi-lingual)
BAYVIEW TECHNOLOGIES INC. 10/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Ave. cor. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Meijing Yang Chinese	Sales Executive
BAYVIEW TECHNOLOGIES INC. 10/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Ave. cor. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Kanarut Pleenbaem Thai	Customer Support (Multi-lingual)
ICICI BANK LTD. (A BR. CORPORATION #1026 Higuain St., Dangkalan,	Parminder Singh Indian	Finance Officer
SUBIC NAVIGATION TRADING CORP. 1-C Apolinar St., Talisay, Nasugbu, Quezon City	Kamaljeet Singh Indian	Assistant Sales Manager
TESLIK MANAGEMENT AND CONSULTANCY CORPORATION 1203 Prudencio St.,	Seongdong Jung Korean	Assistant Sales Manager
BAYVIEW TECHNOLOGIES INC. 10/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Ave. cor. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Pansuphang Sampanit Thai	Customer Support (Multi-lingual)
WISE KNIGHT TECHNOLOGY, INC. 16/F PCEC Plaza Tower 2, 6815 Ayala Ave. cor. Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Ivo Indra Indonesian	Supervisor
WISE KNIGHT TECHNOLOGY, INC. 16/F PCEC Plaza Tower 2, 6815 Ayala Ave. cor. Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Wai Jin Cheong Malaysian	Supervisor
WISE KNIGHT TECHNOLOGY, INC. 16/F PCEC Plaza Tower 2, 6815 Ayala Ave. cor. Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Kok Yong Chan Malaysian	Customer Service Representative
WISE KNIGHT TECHNOLOGY, INC. 16/F PCEC Plaza Tower 2, 6815 Ayala Ave. cor. Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Kar Lok Ofilia Malaysian	Supervisor
WISE KNIGHT TECHNOLOGY, INC. 16/F PCEC Plaza Tower 2, 6815 Ayala Ave. cor. Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Yeh Chau Lee Malaysian	Supervisor
WISE KNIGHT TECHNOLOGY, INC. 16/F PCEC Plaza Tower 2, 6815 Ayala Ave. cor. Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Yu Rust Lik Malaysian	Supervisor
WISE KNIGHT TECHNOLOGY, INC. 16/F PCEC Plaza Tower 2, 6815 Ayala Ave. cor. Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Lee Kwon Chung Malaysian	Customer Service Representative
WISE KNIGHT TECHNOLOGY, INC. 16/F PCEC Plaza Tower 2, 6815 Ayala Ave. cor. Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Kwong Wai Low Malaysian	Supervisor
WISE KNIGHT TECHNOLOGY, INC. 16/F PCEC Plaza Tower 2, 6815 Ayala Ave. cor. Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Kok Kee Yong Malaysian	Customer Service Representative
WISE KNIGHT TECHNOLOGY, INC. 16/F PCEC Plaza Tower 2, 6815 Ayala Ave. cor. Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Chun Siong Chua Malaysian	Customer Service Representative
WISE KNIGHT TECHNOLOGY, INC. 16/F PCEC Plaza Tower 2, 6815 Ayala Ave. cor. Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Cashan Kong Malaysian	Customer Service Representative
SHOPWISE TECHNOLOGIES, INC. A3/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Ave. cor. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Shanli Dai Chinese	Business Development Assistant
SHOPWISE TECHNOLOGIES, INC. A3/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Ave. cor. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Jia Feng Chinese	Customer Support (Multi-lingual)
SHOPWISE TECHNOLOGIES, INC. A3/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Ave. cor. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Tapan Thanik Hoang Phan Vietnamese	Customer Support (Multi-lingual)
SHOPWISE TECHNOLOGIES, INC. A3/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Ave. cor. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Chin Huan Lim Malaysian	Marketing Executive (Multi-lingual)
SHOPWISE TECHNOLOGIES, INC. A3/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Ave. cor. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Nisha Tith Cambodian	Customer Support (Multi-lingual)
WRIGHT PROFIT ZONE SERVICE LIMITED, INC. 3/F Kings Court Bldg., 2129 Chino Roces Ave., Makati City	Shengya Feng Chinese	Customer Service Representative - Mandarin
WRIGHT PROFIT ZONE SERVICE LIMITED, INC. 3/F Kings Court Bldg., 2129 Chino Roces Ave., Makati City	Shu Zheng Chinese	Customer Service Representative - Mandarin
WRIGHT PROFIT ZONE SERVICE LIMITED, INC. 3/F Kings Court Bldg., 2129 Chino Roces Ave., Makati City	Yi Cai Chinese	Customer Service Representative - Mandarin
PHILIPPINE INU TI CORPORATION 4/F Clarendon Bldg., 423 Nueva St., 1000 Ermita, Manila	Jiabin Huang Chinese	Project Manager
PHILIPPINE INU TI CORPORATION 4/F Clarendon Bldg., 423 Nueva St., 1000 Ermita, Manila	Mingming Pu Chinese	Consultant
PHILIPPINE INU TI CORPORATION 4/F Clarendon Bldg., 423 Nueva St., 1000 Ermita, Manila	Ebrahim Sadigh Isarian	Consultant
DRUMEL TECHNICAL SERVICES MANPOWER CORP. GF BCC House 6348 P. Burgos St., Poblacion, Makati City	David Charles Peter Richard Australian	Business Development Director Marketing Consultant
WRIGHT PROFIT ZONE SERVICE LIMITED, INC. 3/F Kings Court Bldg., 2129 Chino Roces Ave., Makati City	Bin Chen Chinese	Customer Service Representative - Mandarin
KYOWA PLANT TECH CORPORATION 23/F Tower 1, Insular Life Corporate Centre, Insular Life Drive, Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Akira Ogasawara Japanese	Project Leader
KYOWA PLANT TECH CORPORATION 23/F Tower 1, Insular Life Corporate Centre, Insular Life Drive, Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Yuu Nagai Japanese	Project Leader
KYOWA PLANT TECH CORPORATION 23/F Tower 1, Insular Life Corporate Centre, Insular Life Drive, Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Shu Kasugawa Japanese	IT Coordinator
KYOWA PLANT TECH CORPORATION 23/F Tower 1, Insular Life Corporate Centre, Insular Life Drive, Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Jiro Sushi Japanese	Project Leader
CASPO INC. 23/F PBCom Tower, Ayala Avenue cor. V.A. Rufino St., Makati City	Tony Ha Giang Vietnamese	Customer Service Representative
NEWS PEOPLE SUPPORT, INC. Aegis Frequency Zoom Center, Ayala Ave. cor Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Jaspreet Singh Khaira Indian	MDT, Quality & Process Excellence
HEXAGEL TECHNOLOGIES PHILIPPINES INC. 53/F PBCom Tower, Ayala Ave. cor. Herrera Sts., Makati City	Dushi Yang Chinese	Product Manager
HEXAGEL TECHNOLOGIES PHILIPPINES INC. 53/F PBCom Tower, Ayala Ave. cor. Herrera Sts., Makati City	Tanxia Zhou Chinese	SDET/ RF Consultant
HEXAGEL TECHNOLOGIES PHILIPPINES INC. 53/F PBCom Tower, Ayala Ave. cor. Herrera Sts., Makati City	Yi Chao Chinese	Consultant
HEXAGEL TECHNOLOGIES PHILIPPINES INC. 53/F PBCom Tower, Ayala Ave. cor. Herrera Sts., Makati City	Qiuzhi Yang Chinese	Consultant
HEXAGEL TECHNOLOGIES PHILIPPINES INC. 53/F PBCom Tower, Ayala Ave. cor. Herrera Sts., Makati City	Yanxia Liu Chinese	Consultant
HEXAGEL TECHNOLOGIES PHILIPPINES INC. 53/F PBCom Tower, Ayala Ave. cor. Herrera Sts., Makati City	Yuanyuan Zhang

Name and Address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/ Nationality	Position
THE DANISH TRADE UNION COUNCIL FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION (LO/FTF COUNCIL) SOUTHEAST ASIA SUB REGIONAL OFFICE c/o Hotel Manila Luxury Condominium, Mezzanine, Dirhilan Circle, Diliman, Quezon City	Heidi Rist Hansen Danish	Consultant
CHINESE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL MANILA INC. Upper McKinley Road, McKinley Hill, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City	Mary Fernandina Indian	Upper School Social Studies Teacher
TECK WAH MANPOWER LIMITED UP Ambassador Bldg., 4th Floor, Ambassador Romulo Ave., Cor. Cyberpark Drive, Bagumbayan, Quezon City	Sabiruddin Ahmed Indian	Technical Associate
WHAL BO BO RESTAURANT CORP. 15 Del. Tuazon St., South Triangle, Quezon City	Hyun Seok Han Korean	Assistant Operations Manager

ERRATUM

In the ad material of Notice of filing of Application for Alien Employment Permit published on Sept. 18, 2012, the position of **Ms. Zhaoxia Liu** of **BANK OF CHINA - LIMITED** should have been read as Deputy Manager - International Settlement Section, Corporate Banking Development and not as published.

If you have any information/objection to the above mentioned application's please communicate with the Regional Director.

ATTY. ALAN M. MACARAEG JR.
Regional Director

To avail of free job referral, placement, and employment guidance services, visit the nearest Public Employment Service Offices (PESO) or log on at www.phil-job.net

(INC.-10/19/12)

LEYTE V ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
P.O. Box 112, Brgy. San Pedro, Ormoc City
Tel. Nos. (053)561-4125/255-1407/ Telefax (053)561-4854

INVITATION TO BID

The Leyte V Electric Cooperative, Inc. (LEYECO V) invites interested eligible contractors to submit sealed bids for the Supply of Labor and Materials for the Electrification Projects of 17 Sitios in Ormoc City funded under the Department of Energy (DOE) EPI 1-A1.

Bid documents can be secured from the Pre-Bids and Awards Committee (PBAC) Secretariat on **October 29, 2012 to November 8, 2012** upon payment of a non-refundable amount of PHP THOUSAND PESOS ONLY (Php1,000.00).

Sealed bids will be received by the PBAC on LEYECO V Main Office in Brgy. San Pedro, Ormoc City, Leyte on **November 27, 2012** at 1:00 p.m. at which time and place said proposals will be opened and read in the presence of bidders or their authorized representatives.

For purposes of clarifying issues, a pre-bid conference will be held on **November 5, 2012 at 1:30 p.m. at LEYECO V, BRGY SAN PABLO, ORMOC CITY, LEYTE.**

The Cooperative reserves the right to reject any or all bids without attaining any explanation to waive any minor defects or informalities therein and to accept any or all offers as may be considered most responsive and advantageous to the Cooperative. It assumes no obligation whatsoever for any expenses or loss that may be incurred by the bidder in the preparation of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(SGD.) **ENGR. CRESCENTE C. LOPERA**
PBAC Chairman

(SGD.) **ENGR. JUANITO E. JORDA, JR.**
General Manager

(PBAC Resolution No. 08-12-12-2012)

CAMARINES SUR II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (CASURECO II)

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY TO BID

The Camarines Sur II Electric Cooperative, Inc. (CASURECO II) through its BAC is extending invitation for duly licensed suppliers and/or contractors to apply for eligibility to bid for the Supply and Delivery of one (1) unit Power Transformer as per Bid Data No. 12-09.

The following shall comprise the eligibility documents:

1. 2008 Income Tax Return (Business Income/Profit, 2011)
2. 2012 Audited Financial Statements
3. Valid and current Mayor's/Business Permit
4. Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) License
5. Latest Income/Business Tax Clearance
6. Net Financial Contracting Capacity (NFCC) computation

The complete schedule of activities are listed, as follows:

BAC ACTIVITIES	SCHEDULE
a. Submission of eligibility documents for non-prequalified suppliers/contractors (Bidders' Profile, Affidavit of Undertaking, etc.) (10.1 & 10.2)	November 5 - 9, 2012
b. Evaluation of eligibility documents	November 12, 2012
c. Posting of BAC Resolution for those approved eligibility requirements	November 13 - 15, 2012
d. Pre-bid conference	November 21, 2012
e. Submission of Bid proposal	November 26 - 28, 2012
f. Opening and Evaluation of Bid Proposal & recommendation for Award to the Governing Board	December 3, 2012

Bid documents can be available to prospective bidders upon payment of non-refundable amount of Php1,000.00.

For clarification, contact Mr. Aurora Tenaza C. Silva, our BAC Secretariat at (054) 475-2376 for further inquiries.

CASURECO II RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL PROPOSALS, OR DECLARE A FAILURE OF BIDDING, OR NOT TO AWARD A CONTRACT AFFECTED BY FORCE MAJEURE OR ANY ACT THAT WOULD PREVENT THE ORDERLY AWARD OF THE CONTRACT, OR ANY OBLIGATION TO ANY BIDDER, AT ANY TIME PRIOR TO THE AWARD OF CONTRACT WITHOUT INCURRING ANY LIABILITY TO THE AFFECTED BIDDER OR BIDDERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE GUIDELINES & PROCUREMENT POLICY.

(SGD.) **ROLANDO A. PANTE**
Chairman, Bids & Awards Committee

Attested by:

(SGD.) **EDDIE G. ABLAO**
BAC Project Team Head

(CSII-10/19/12)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Regional Offices Complex
DIVISION OF ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE
Dipolog City

Invitation to Bid

1. The Department of Education, Division of Zamboanga del Norte, intends to apply the sum of **Fourteen Million Eight Hundred Fifty Thousand Pesos only (₱14,850,000.00)** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for **Supply and Delivery of Computers as follows:**

DESCRIPTION
Twenty Six (26) units Assorted Desktop Computer
Twenty Two (22) units Notebook Computer
Four (4) units Tablet Computer

2. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at opening.
3. The Department of Education, Division of Zamboanga del Norte now invites bids for **CONSTRUCTION OF TWO (2) UNITS TWO (2) STOREY- SIX CLASSROOM SB @ MAGANDAG ELEM' SCHOOL, DAPITAN CITY, ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE** with an Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) of **Two Hundred Twenty Five Thousand Pesos only (₱225,000.00)**. Bidders should have completed, within five (5) years from the date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the Project. The description of an equipment is detailed in the Bidding Documents particularly in Section VI. Schedule of Requirements.
4. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

   Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to RA 5183 and subject to Commonwealth Act 138.
5. Interested bidders may obtain further information from **RAO-IX Secretariat c/o Procurement Section, Procurement and Property Division, Ground Floor, Bid Bldg. A, DepEd, Bonifacio, Mankilam, Dipolog City** and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:30am to 5:00pm.
6. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders on **October 19 to November 13, 2012** from the address below and upon payment of non- refundable fee of **Five Thousand Pesos Only (₱5,000.00)**.

   It may also be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and the website of the Procuring Entity, provided that Bidders shall pay the nonrefundable fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of their bids.
7. The BAC will hold a Pre-Bid Conference on **October 31, 2012, 10:00 AM at Classroom A, 3rd Floor, BC Bldg, DepEd Complex, CSEA, Dipolog City**, which shall be open only to all interested parties who have purchased the Bidding Documents.
8. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before **November 13, 2012, 9:00 AM.** All Bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in **ITB Clause 11**.

   Bid opening shall be on **November 13, 2012, 9:30 AM at Classroom A, 3rd Floor, BC Bldg, DepEd Complex, CSEA, Quezon City.** Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below. Late bids shall not be accepted.
9. The BAC reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.
10. For further information, please refer to:

    Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee II
    National Irrigation Administration
    c/o BAC II Secretariat
    Ground Floor, Bldg. A
    Sta. Cruzan, Dapitan, Dipolog City
    Tel. Nos. 823-0000; 828-8077 loc. 132

(Sgd.) **ATTY. GENEVER M. CHONG**
Chairman, BAC-II

(INC.-10/19/12)

CENTRAL PANGASINAN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
San Carlos City, Pangasinan
Tel. # (075) 632-2311 / 632-0140

INVITATION TO BID

The Central Pangasinan Electric Cooperative, Inc. (CENPELCO) with office and main address at San Carlos City, Pangasinan invites prequalified bidders for the supply and delivery of the following electrical materials and equipment:

SCHEDULE I	Distribution Transformer
SCHEDULE II	30/5 Steel Poles
SCHEDULE III	Electrical Conductor / Hardware
SCHEDULE IV	40 Chance Fuse Units
SCHEDULE V	Fuse Cut-outs
SCHEDULE VI	Current Transformer - Polemtor Transformer
SCHEDULE VII	Pull-out Gladed Disc
SCHEDULE VIII	Meter Seal

All interested parties shall submit Letter of Intent and secure bidding documents at Instruction to Bidders and Schedule of Activities to PBAC secretariat from **October 24, 2012 to October 26, 2012** upon payment of non-refundable fee of One Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (₱1,500.00). Submission of sealed bid is on or before 10:00 A.M. on Tuesday at 02:00 P.M. (same day). Pre-bid conference will be held on **October 29, 2012** at 10:00 A.M. at CENPELCO Conference Room, Pantal St., San Carlos City. Prequalification under oath will be opened in the presence of the bidder or their representative.

Request for letter to submit your sealed bid proposal and latest computer print file in the prescribed format. Bidder has a two (two) day to negotiate. Please submit 100.00 (hundred) for two (2) and one half percent (2.5%) of the total bid price if in cash or manager's check. If it is one month from the date of opening of bid. Failure to submit 2.5% of the total bid price shall disqualify the bidder. The request document will be automatically disqualified. Bid proposals submitted beyond the specified date and time will not be accepted.

CENPELCO RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, WAIVE ANY OF THE REQUIRED FORMALITY THEREIN AND ACCEPT THE BIDS ONLY DEEMED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE COOPERATIVE.

(Sgd.) **ENGR. GERARDO A. ROMUALDO**
BAC Chairman

Noted by:

(Sgd.) **ENGR. RODOLFO T. CABRERA**
Officer-in-Charge

(BAC Res. No. 10-12-2012)

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Australian Migration Agent

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Department of Agriculture
Pambansang Pangasiwaan ng Patubig
NATIONAL IRRIGATION ADMINISTRATION
EDSA, Diliman, Quezon City

Invitation to Bid for Supply and Delivery of

COMPUTERS

Invitation to Bid No. BS-009-12

1. The **National Irrigation Administration (NIA)** through the 2012 **Corporate Operating Budget** intends to apply the sum of **Three Million Four Hundred Six Thousand Two Hundred Pesos (Php3,406,200.00)** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for **Supply and Delivery of Computers** as follows:

DESCRIPTION
Twenty Six (26) units Assorted Desktop Computer
Twenty Two (22) units Notebook Computer
Four (4) units Tablet Computer

Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at opening.

2. The **National Irrigation Administration (NIA)** now invites bids for **Supply and Delivery of Computers**. Delivery of the Goods is required to be thirty (30) days from receipt of Contract/Purchase Order. Bidders should have completed, within five (5) years from the date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the Project. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in the Bidding Documents, particularly in Section VI. Instructions to Bidders.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

   Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to RA 5183 and subject to Commonwealth Act 138.
4. Interested bidders may obtain further information from **BAC-IA Secretariat c/o Procurement Section, Procurement and Property Division, Ground Floor, Bid Bldg. A, EDSA, Diliman, Quezon City** and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00am to 5:00pm.

   A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders on **October 19 to November 13, 2012** from the address below and upon payment of non- refundable fee of **Five Thousand Pesos (Php5,000.00)**.

   It may also be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and the website of the Procuring Entity, provided that Bidders shall pay the nonrefundable fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of their bids.
5. The BAC will hold a Pre-Bid Conference on **October 31, 2012, 10:00 AM at Classroom A, 3rd Floor, BC Bldg, NIA Complex, EDSA, Quezon City**, which shall be open only to all interested parties who have purchased the Bidding Documents.
6. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before **November 13, 2012, 9:00 AM.** All Bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in **ITB Clause 11**.

   Bid opening shall be on **November 13, 2012, 9:30 AM at Classroom A, 3rd Floor, BC Bldg, NIA Complex, EDSA, Quezon City.** Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below. Late bids shall not be accepted.
7. The BAC reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.
8. For further information, please refer to:

   Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee-IA
   National Irrigation Administration
   c/o BAC-IA Secretariat
   Ground Floor, Bldg. A
   NIA Complex, EDSA, Diliman, Quezon City
   Tel. Nos. 823-0000; 828-8077 loc. 132

(Sgd.) **ATTY. GENEVER M. CHONG**
Chairman, BAC-IA

(INC.-10/19/12)

QUEZON I ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
Public Plaza, Quezon
Telefax: (042) 7245570 • Tel: (042) 373-1122

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **Quezon I Electric Cooperative, Inc. (QUEZELCO I)** invites qualified manufacturers/suppliers to apply for eligibility and submit bid proposals for the following Lots:

LOT 1	Poles for Line Maintenance and New Extensions	**ABC - Php 2,057,000.00**
LOT 2	Transformers, Line and Maintenance Materials and Hardwares	**ABC - Php 1,400,000.00**
LOT 3	Meters and Meter Seals for Replacement and New Connections	**ABC - Php 2,057,000.00**

Bids higher than the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) shall automatically be rejected.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures in accordance with the criteria specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act. Only those bidders who possess the eligibility requirements as stated hereunder and the posted calculated bid price shall undergo the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine its responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall only be awarded to the lowest calculated and responsive bidder (LCRB), who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

Prospective Bidders may purchase bidding documents on October 25, 2012 (8:00 AM) to 02:00 PM on October 30, 2012 (12:00 NN) at the non-refundable cost of One Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (₱1,500.00) per Bidder. Bidders are required to submit a Letter of Intent to Bid and a Duly Accomplished Eligibility Requirements on October 31, 2012 at 1:00 PM when a technical requirements for the project will be discussed.

Bidding schedule and activities:

Availability of Bidding Documents	– October 25 to 30, 2012
Issuance of Bid Documents	– October 25 to 30, 2012
Pre-bid Conference	– October 31, 2012 (1:00 pm)
Opening of Bids	– November 13, 2012 (9:00 am)
Post-Qualification	– November 14, 2012
Notice of Award	– 7 days from the date of submission of the Bids

Bidders or authorized representatives who failed to attend the pre-bid conference shall not be allowed to participate in the bidding.

All bids submitted must be accompanied by a bid security in cash or manager's check equivalent to 2% of the approved budget for the Project, or by a Bid Bond security shall be valid for at least 90 days starting from the date of bid opening.

The Quezon I Electric Cooperative, Inc. reserves the right to reject any or all bids without assigning any reason, to waive any minor defects or informalities therein and to accept such bid as may be considered most advantageous to the QUEZELCO I Cooperative.

(Sgd.) **ENGR. SARGENTO E. HERNOLES**
BAC Chairman

Noted by:

(Sgd.) **ENGR. RODOLFO T. CABRERA**
Officer-in-Charge

(QUEZELCO I-10/19/12)

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Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
Regional Office No. IV-A
3/F Andenson Bldg. A. Mabini, Calamba City
Telefax No. (049) 545-0292

October 10, 2012

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT (AEP)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with the Regional Office applications for the Alien Employment Permit:

	Name and Address of Company/Employer	Name and Citizenship of Foreign National	Position and Brief Description of Functions
1.	LAGUNA BELTS CORPORATION (LBC), Laguna Technopark, Binan, Laguna	Mr. Kenichi Minoguchi Japanese	President
2.	OLYMPIAN ELECTRONICS (SAMOA) PRODUCTS, INC. Olympian Industrial Park, Brgy. Canlubang, Calamba City, Laguna	Mr. Ryung Soo Kim Korean	Executive Manager
3.	ELECTRICS GREEN CORAL (MALAYSIA) MINORITY SHARE, Brgy. Batasan-Bagumbayan, Indang, Batangas City	Mr. Seunghwan Lee Korean	Manager
4.	SAEJIN PHILIPPINES, INC. (JJ Summit NCC Plant Site, Brgy. Sambong, Batangas City	Mr. Chandrakar Kumar Indian	Piping Engineer
5.	SAEJIN PHILIPPINES, INC. (JJ Summit NCC Plant Site, Brgy. Sambong, Batangas City	Mr. Sukh Singh Kalsai Indian	Piping Engineer
6.	SAEJIN PHILIPPINES, INC. (JJ Summit NCC Plant Site, Brgy. Sambong, Batangas City	Mr. Amarendra Nandan Kalsai Indian	Piping Engineer
7.	MANUFACTURING CO. OF NORIATS, INC. ITRP Tambo-Cluster, Sto. Tomas, Batangas	Mr. Shinichi Ikeuchi Sales/Administration Employment	Senior Chief – Business Engineering Division
8.	PHILIPPINE MANUFACTURING CO. OF NORIATS, INC. ITRP Tambo-Cluster, Sto. Tomas, Batangas	Mr. Eiichi Tsuchitori Japanese	1 Chief Manager – Business Engineering Division
9.	PHILIPPINE MANUFACTURING CO. OF NORIATS, INC. ITRP Tambo-Cluster, Sto. Tomas, Batangas	Mr. Hideyuki Imura Japanese	Asst. Manager – Process Engineering
10.	PHILIPPINE MANUFACTURING CO. OF NORIATS, INC. ITRP Tambo-Cluster, Sto. Tomas, Batangas	Mr. Yukio Hatori Japanese	Asst. Manager – Production Dept.
11.	PHILIPPINE MANUFACTURING CO. OF NORIATS, INC. ITRP Tambo-Cluster, Sto. Tomas, Batangas	Mr. Kazuto Nagahama Japanese	Manager – ATM Control Section
12.	PHILIPPINE MANUFACTURING CO. OF NORIATS, INC. ITRP Tambo-Cluster, Sto. Tomas, Batangas	Mr. Kazuo Hachitori Japanese	Manager – Process Engineering Section
13.	PHILIPPINE MANUFACTURING CO. OF NORIATS, INC. ITRP Tambo-Cluster, Sto. Tomas, Batangas	Mr. Tomohiro Hori Japanese	Deputy General Manager – Plant Dept.
14.	PHILIPPINE MANUFACTURING CO. OF NORIATS, INC. ITRP Tambo-Cluster, Sto. Tomas, Batangas	Mr. Shuichi Miyata Japanese	Deputy General Manager – Plant Dept.

If you have any information/objection to the above-mentioned applications, please communicate with the Regional Director.

ALEX V. AVILA
OIC – Regional Director

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INVITATION TO BID
FOR
REPAIR OF CASED-IN FILL, SLOPE PROTECTION, DEWIDGE & DRAINAGE (1ST) FOR A PORTION OF BREAKWATER AT RECLAMATION AREA, PORT OF PALAWAN, (LOT 5)

The Philippine Ports Authority, Port Management Office – Puerto, through the Corporate Budget of the Authority for CY 2012, intends to apply the sum of **P 3,497,245.00** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the project. **Repair of Complete Fill, Slope Protection, Dewidge & Drainage System, & Installation of Mooring Bollards at Reclamation Area, Port of Palawan, Lot 5 (Bid No. CM-12-02)**. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.

The Philippine Ports Authority, Port Management Office – Puerto now invites bids for the **Repair of Complete Fill, Slope Protection, Dewidge & Drainage System, & Installation of Mooring Bollards at Reclamation Area, Port of Palawan, Lot 5 (Bid No. CM-12-02)**. Completion of Works required is the period is **Two Hundred Twenty (220) Calendar Days**. Bidders should have completed, within the last two (2) years from the date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the Project, the value of which, adjusted to current prices using the NSCB consumer price index, must be at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC or the bid will not be accepted. Other minimum eligibility requirements are listed in the Bidding Documents, particularly, in **Instruction to Bidders**.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criterion as specified in the Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act" and is open to bidders of **August 1, 2012**.

Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least seventy five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines.

Interested bidders may obtain further information from Philippine Ports Authority, Port Management Office – Puerto and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from **8:00am to 5:00pm**.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased starting **October 17, 2012** to the following address and upon the payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents, in the amount of **P 10,000.00** inclusive of VAT.

The Philippine Ports Authority, Port Management Office – Puerto will hold a Pre-Bid Conference on **October 24, 2012 at 1:30pm** at Philippine Ports Authority, Port Management Office – Puerto, Conference Room, 1st Lt. Black St. Barrio Puerto, Puerto Princesa City, Palawan which shall be open to all prospective bidders.

Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before **November 7, 2012 at 10:00am**. Late bids shall not be accepted.

Opening of bids shall commence **immediately** after the deadline for the submission of bids. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below. Late bids shall not be accepted.

1	unit	Oncological Concentrator – serial
1	unit	Copy Paper, 70 gsm, 500 qty. – serial/stock#
1	unit	Battery, 12 volt, 100 Ah – serial/stock#
1	unit	Air Compressor, 300PSI – serial/stock#
1	unit	Air Cooler – serial
1	unit	Air Blower – serial
1	unit	Work Table, 20 feet – serial
1	unit	Concrete Cutter with propeller – serial
1	unit	Concrete Mixer – serial
1	unit	Pedestal Electric fan – serial/stock#
1	unit	Electric Drill, VSR-Reg, 450W – serial/stock#
1	unit	Pneumatic Hammer Jackhammer – serial/stock#
1	unit	Tarpaulin, 5.3 sqm. qty. – serial/stock#
1	unit	Underwater Camera, 35 mm, up to 5 meter depth – serial/stock#
1	unit	Vibrator, Rod Probe, 57 mm – serial/stock#
1	unit	Welding Machine, 300A – serial

– Approved Budget for the Contract – Seventy-Three Million Pesos (Philippine Engineering)

The Philippine Ports Authority reserves its rights to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

For further information, please refer to:

Atty. ABBY A. LAGARO
Manager
PMO – Puerto Princesa

How to evict abusive informal settlers effectively

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2012

A PROPERTY OWNER'S WORST nightmare is to have abusive informal settlers, professional squatting syndicates, and unlawful occupants on his premises. What does one do when faced with this headache?

The Center for Global Best Practices is holding a one-day special seminar entitled, "A Property Owner's Guide to Earning Illegal Occupants Effectively: Strategies, Legal Procedures, and Solutions" on Friday, November 16, 2012 at the Bonanza Manila, Makati City.

A popular knowledge of the correct legal remedies is essential if any contemplated action for the recovery of illegally occupied land or building is to be successful.

The seminar is about preserving your property from unlawful occupants and how to efficiently utilize summary actions and provisional remedies available to enforce rights in the speedy recovery of your land or building so as to avoid further damage arising out of protracted dispossession. The details will include some special laws affecting owners on land development such as Republic Act No. 6552 (The Maceda Law); free patents with no withdrawal of title property; Presidential Decree No. 1517 (The Urban Land Reform Law); Republic Act No. 7279 (The Urban Development and Housing Act); Tenancy law and other related laws.

Participants in this program will also learn how protection and assistance on how to implement and manage legal operations and demolition of squatters from experienced lawyers. Some subtle factual differences could make the difference in favor of an immediate action. Avoid this mistake and avoid the costly mistakes and pitfalls of other property owners who have failed to evict unlawful occupants. That special property is a limited-time only event with per participants required. For inquiries, please call Rhonda Jones, (02) 843-1141; Ely Cebu Jones, (032) 512-3195; 09178402 Rhonda Jones, (0917) 4039340 or check the website for dial and other the upcoming seminars, announcements.

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OBITUARIES

ALBERTO S. PESIGAN

Peacefully joined his Creator on 18 October 2012 at the age of 88.

His loving wife, **Amelia**; His children by the late **Dra. Adelina Medina Pesigan: Ady & Sari, Alex, Art & Helen, Aris & Rica, Armand & Felisa, Anna & Joe**; grandchildren: **Albert & Anton; Lia, Mica & Tala; Carlo & Meos, Juan, Janice, Joyce, James, Cesar, Cedric, & Mayman**; and **Ysabelle**; nephews and nieces and great-grandchild **Pepito**, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Parish, Magallanes Village, Makati City.

Cremation will be at The Arlington Crematory on Sunday, 21st of October 2012 after the 12 noon Mass.

In lovingly remembered on his 17th Death Anniversary

RAMON R. ANGELES, MD

Died October 18, 1995

His family requests all those whose lives he has touched with his generosity and dedication to his profession to keep his memory alive thru prayers and masses.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."
John 3:16

"Remember us now the use of our words, remember us only to light of your face." - Psalm 20:7

AJAS M. YADAO

May joined our Creator on October 16, 2012 at the age of 71.

His remains lie in state at San Lorenzo Ruiz, St. Peter Chapel, Quirino Avenue, Quirino City.

Interment will be on October 25, 2012 at Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque.

His family requests the prayers of his relatives and friends for the eternal repose of his soul.

ST. PETER CHAPELS

Death Notice

Asuncion Venturina Inovero

joined our Creator on Oct. 8, 2012 at the age of 84.

His body lies in state at the San Quintin Bakery, Highway Poblacion, San Ildefonso, Bulacan.

Interment will be on Oct. 20, 2012 at the Infinity Memorial Park, San Juan, San Ildefonso, Bulacan after the 2:30PM Mass at San Ildefonso Parish Church.

Sister Rebecca R. Encabo, ICM

(Nurse)
late Sister Grace Anne Land on October 16, 2012 at the age of 74 and in the 56th year of her religious profession in ICM.

The Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (ICM) Sisters, her family and friends, request the prayers for her soul.

The Mass of the Resurrection will be celebrated on October 19, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. at the Queen of the Rosary Chapel, #1 Banaue Street, Quezon City.

Interment will follow at La Loma Catholic Cemetery.

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
- Copy of Death Certificate
- Any identification document (I.D.)

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS and bank-to-bank payments.

"Even when I walk through a dark valley, I feel no harm. For you are with me; your rod and staff give me courage..." - Psalm 23:4

FRENCH CONNECTION

A HISTORIC FIRST

French PM visit marks stronger ties between PH and France

French PM visit marks stronger ties between PH and France

By Tarra Quismundo

MANILA, History in Philippine-French relations, French Prime Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault will arrive in the Philippines on Friday for a three-day visit aimed at furthering long-standing trade and cultural ties between the two nations.

Ayrault will be in Manila from Dec. 10 to 12, the first time for a French head of state to visit the Philippines since Paris and Manila broadened diplomatic relations in 1947, just after the end of World War II.

The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said Ayrault will arrive in Manila with a 130-member delegation, including ministers, members of parliament and business leaders.

"Prime Minister Ayrault's visit does not only represent a milestone event in Philippine-French relations. More importantly, it sends a strong signal that France has taken serious notice of the positive developments in the country and is ready to earnestly engage the Philippines as a vibrant and dynamic partner," the DFA said in announcing Ayrault's visit.

Renewed Dynamism

Themed "Enhancing Philippine-French relations through political, economic and cultural cooperation," the high-level French delegation's trip to the Philippines "will inform renewed dynamism in our bilateral ties and propel our partnership to greater heights," said the DFA.

Joining Ayrault in his visit are Nicole Bricq, France's Minister for Foreign Trade, and Hélène Conway-Mouret, French Minister Delegate for French Nationals Abroad, whose office is attached to France's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

President Benigno Aquino III will host Ayrault and his delegation in Malacañang during their visit, a reciprocal hosting for the honor that France bestowed to the President's mother, the late President Corazon Aquino, in 1989, the DFA said.

In July of that year, the French government invited the late Aquino as chief guest during France's commemoration of the bicentennial of the French Revolution.

"France was one of the first countries to recognize the government of former President Aquino at the height of the 1986 People Power Revolution," said the DFA, in reference to the popular revolt that installed the late Aquino to power and toppled the dictatorship of Ferdinand Marcos.

Bilateral Relations

During their meeting, Aquino and Ayrault will "exchange views on moving bilateral relations forward, as well as on regional and multilateral issues."

A group of key French business leaders from Ayrault's delegation will also meet with their Philippine counterparts at the Philippine-French Business Forum slated on Oct. 22.

The meeting is expected to boost economic relations between the two nations, which has been wary of late with a noted increase in trimmed French investments.

DFA figures showed that total bilateral trade between the Philippines and France totaled $1.345 billion (roughly P60 billion) last year. Total approved French investments were meanwhile placed at $1.143 billion, an increase of 58 percent from 2010.

French companies are also looking to participate in both the Philippine consumer market and public-private partnership projects (PPP) with the government, the foreign office said.

Among firms with strong presence in the Philippines include Lafarge cement, Total petroleum, the AXA global insurance group, and Alcatel, a telecommunications technologies firm. The DFA said French companies EDF Dey, a public transportation firm, and Thales, an electrical systems provider, are also interested in taking part in PPP projects.

Art Exchange

During his visit, Ayrault will also firm up France's cultural cooperation with the Philippines through the signing of an agreement on the staging of "Philippines-Art of Exchange," an exhibition of Filipino art in the renowned Musée du Quai Branly in Paris.

The museum, considered France's premier venue for indigenous art and culture, will display Philippine art from April 9 to July 21, 2013.

"The Exhibition will put the Philippines in the cultural map of France and is expected to attract thousands of French, European, and international visitors, as well as generate wide media exposure. Side events will be organized during the Exhibition to include workshops on Philippine cuisine, Philippine dances, Philippine musical instruments, and others," the DFA said.

France has been among the Philippines' avid cultural partners, mainly through FrancoPhil, a program initiated last year to bring French art and culture to the Philippines.

Under the program, the French Embassy in Manila and the Alliance Française de Manille will host 35 events in the Philippines annually to exhibit French and Philippine individual and collaborative work in the arts, among them music, fashion, visual arts and modern dance.

Priority Projects

Ayrault's last stop is Cebu, where he will witness the unveiling of the Bus Rapid Transit project, a public transport program partially funded by the French government's development arm, Agence Française de Développement (AFD).

MRT has been closely working with the Aquino administration to pursue priority projects to elevate climate change, green architecture, sustainable urban development through public transport, water supply and sanitation, ecological conversion and capacity-building of local governments, AFD said.

Apart from official ties, the Philippines and France also share constant people-to-people exchange, said the DFA, with 50,000 Filipinos living and working in France and roughly 4,000 French nationals staying in the Philippines.

Historic ties that bind

Though formal diplomatic relations were established between the Republic of the Philippines and the Republic of France on June 26, 1947, history tells us that the relations between the Philippines and France go beyond 65 years.

ALTHOUGH Filipinos and France share a common pride in their unique institutions and democratic society.

Then President Corazon Aquino, who was called not just a yellow Madonna but a modern Joan of Arc because of her phenomenal ascent to power through the peaceful EDSA revolution in February 1986, was personally invited by then French President Francois Mitterand to attend the Bicentennial Celebration of the Fall of Bastille in 1989. France was one of the first countries to recognize President Aquino's government.

Mr. Aquino was also bestowed the singular honor of being the only state visitor among the select heads of state and government.

Rare Honor

For this rare honor, the Philippine flag was flown alongside the French tricolor along the Champs Elysee during the peak of the celebration.

Personally met by President Mitterand and his wife at the City Airport, Mr. Aquino was flown by helicopter to the Esplanades des Invalides fronting the mausoleum of Napoleon Bonaparte where the motorcade to the State Guesthouse, the Hotel Matignon, began.

According to an account in "The People's Emissary," hundreds of French Republic Guards on horseback escorted Mr. Aquino to the State Guesthouse, "a magnificent eight-in-hand as they cantered forward, blowing an trumpets."

Later at the Elysee Palace at the state banquet, Mitterand honored Mr. Aquino with these words: "In the heart of a year devoted to the commemoration of the Bicentenary of the French Revolution, this week is, for us French, somewhat exceptional as it is the week of the 14th of July our National Holiday.

I wanted to invite, for this occasion, a few of those people who are working to create a more just and more generous world in the spirit of the universal values of human rights and democracy that France proposed to the world in 1789. It is only fitting, Madam President, that with the man you welcome as an honour to us, you should be the few to preside at this gathering of the friends of France."

President Corazon Aquino

Long History

Philippine-French relations has a long history. Though formal diplomatic relations were established between the Republic of the Philippines and the Republic of France on June 26, 1947, history tells us that the relations between the Philippines and France go beyond 65 years.

A French consulate was established in Manila in the late 19th century when the Philippines was still a colony of Spain. The short-lived First Philippine Republic has a diplomatic representative in Hong Kong in 1898 when the United States and Spain were negotiating the terms for what has come down as the Treaty of Paris.

According to historian Ambeth Ocampo, the Philippine National Anthem has a part that echoes the French national anthem. Also, the red, white and blue that, according to the June 12, 1898 declaration of Philippine independence, commemorate the colors of the US flag can be traced all the way back to the French tricolor.

Liberte' Egalite' Fraternite'

In the Malolos banquet of September 1898, to celebrate the ratification of the declaration of independence in Kawit, Cavite, the elaborate printed menu had a French feast, a way to remember the battle-cry of the French Revolution: "Liberte' Egalite' Fraternite'"

French travel accounts of the Philippines in the 18th and 19th centuries also helped Filipino historians recreate the past. Containing photographs and engravings, these publications provide a visual link to the Spanish Philippines.

Books published by the National Historical Institute feature testimonies by a French soldier and two French journalists, and also provide detailed descriptions of the Philippine-American war. These are "The War in the Philippines," which contains reports by French journalists Enrique Bazetet and Henri Turot, and "The Diary of a French Officer on the War to the Philippines 1898."

Sources: Ambeth Ocampo, "Philippine-French Relations," PDI, November 19, 2008; "The Aquino Management of the Presidency: Her People's Emissary," (Manila: Presidential Management Staff, 1992); Inquirer Research

Eurobrands brings Peugeot to the Philippines

EUROBRANDS Distributors Inc. or EDI has joined the worldwide network of Peugeot dealers as the exclusive importer and distributor of the brand French label in the Philippines.

Eurobrands is the newest addition to the prestigious business entities that comprise the Columbian Group of Companies.

Peugeot joins the holding company's exclusive distribution of two other global brands and uniquely combines in one neat package high-end technology with practicality and affordability.

At the helm of the Columbian Group of Companies is businessman Jose Ch. Alvarez who is Chairman Executive, with businessmen Johnny T. Hernandez as Chairman, and Felix J. Mabilog, Jr. as President and COO. Peugeot's distinct kind of luxury, in tandem with its high level fuel efficiency, provide much of the challenge to the high-powered executive team assembled by the Columbian group to handle the European brand.

The team's wide-ranging experience and expertise that covers the entire gamut of automotive manufacturing, procurement, marketing, advertising and sales and distribution, will no doubt ensure that Peugeot eventually becomes a top-of-mind brand in the country.

Peugeot's entry in the Philippines highlights the Columbian group's firm commitment to provide the Philippine market with cars that have only the best fuel savings and environment-friendly technologies.

As the world's largest producer of diesel engines, Peugeot has perfected diesel technology to the extent that it has conserved and minimized its level of efficiency ever as it has minimized its harmful effects.

Peugeot's revolutionary micro-hybrid technology, exclusive and unique to the brand's diesel-powered cars, is a model of fuel efficiency and economy by coming edge diesel particulate filter system, a state-of-the-technology Peugeot transmission, cars it sells offer much of the harmful CO2 emissions that are the bane of diesel-powered cars.

THE Peugeot 508 (left) and the Peugeot 5008 are among the models Eurobrands Distributor Inc., is bringing in.

PSA Peugeot Citroen: A proud European tradition

PSA Peugeot Citroen, the second largest selling automotive brand in Europe, is a major French automaker and the world's leading producer of diesel engines. With a proud tradition that dates back more than 200 years, this great has evolved from weaving shops to steelworks, to the manufacture of tools and coffee mills, and onto bicycles and wheeled vehicles. Through the years, the Peugeot brand has grown in popularity and renown, adapting step by step to the changing world - the Industrial Revolution, the Great Depression of the 1929, the period of prosperity of the 30's and the economic crisis that characterized much of the 80's. In the period that saw two World Wars, Peugeot has shown its adaptability by becoming a major manufacturer of weapons and military vehicles from bicycles to tanks and shells. Concentrating on car manufacturing in 1946, Peugeot slowly began to reassert itself as an automotive brand with the Peugeot 203, forming its reputation growing and its furnace expanding, more models followed, most elegantly styled by renowned automotive design house Pininfarina. The company began selling cars to the United States in 1950. Like many European manufacturers, it collaborated with other firms increased. Peugeot worked with Renault from 1966 and with Volvo Cars from 1972 to 1974. Peugeot bought a 30% share of Citroën, and took it over completely in 1976. The joint venture company became the PSA group, keeping the separate identities of both brands but sharing most of engineering and technical resources. 1983 saw the launch of the popular and successful Peugeot 205, which is largely credited for saving the ailment ganks to PSA's fortunes. Many other successful vehicles followed. Peugeot has introduced new technologies that revolutionized car manufacturing throughout the world. Its cutting-edge research in diesel technology has introduced the HDi engine or High-pressure Diesel Injection system which possesses much of the diesel engine's traditional characteristics - economy, range and toughness - while overcoming much of its disadvantages. The high point for the HDi has been the introduction as a "world's first" of the particulate filter (PdF), which completely eliminates particulates, of whatever size, in turn minimizing harmful emissions and thus contributing to a cleaner environment. A newly-developed 200-cv 4-hybrid technology furthers this achievement with higher fuel economy and lower harmful emissions. PSA has even recently been the European most profitable automaker. In 2007, the global market share of PSA grew to 9.2%. In Europe, PSA is the second largest player with a market share of 12.9% with 3.5 million vehicles sold in 2011. In the future year, 42% of which sales of PSA was from outside Europe. In the coming years, with the group's aggressive expansion plans in both South America, Asia and Russia, PSA is expecting robust growth outside of Europe.

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IN THE KNOW:
A glimpse of French governance

By Aimi M. Dagan

FRANCE's executive power is headed by two officials—the Prime Minister (a head of government, and the President (a head of State. In the Philippines, the President heads both.

While the Prime Minister is appointed by the President, s/he wields most of the executive powers. The Prime Minister directs government operations; controls the civil service, government agencies, and armed forces; and ensures the implementation of laws.

The Prime Minister is nominated by majority of the National Assembly—also known as the Lower House of the Parliament. The Prime Minister is always from the dominant party of the Senate of Assembly.

The French President is elected by the people to a five-year term. Unlike his Filipino counterpart, aside from having the power to appoint the Prime Minister, the French President wields great power, especially in matters of foreign policy. He coordinates treaties and can exercise special powers in certain emergencies.

Like the Philippines, the French government has three branches: the executive, legislative and judicial.

The legislative branch or bicameral Parliament consists of the Senate and the National Assembly. 348 senators are chosen by an electoral college of about 145,000 local officials to serve for six years. Of the 348 seats, 328 are for metropolitan France, and the rest are for overseas departments. It has New Caledonia, 2 for French Polynesia, 1 for Saint-Pierre and Miquelon, 1 for Saint-Barthelemy, 1 for Saint-Martin, 1 for Wallis and Futuna and 12 for French nationals abroad.

The National Assembly has 577 members elected by popular vote to serve five-year terms. It is the principal legislative body and often has the last word on legislation.

Either senators or the Assembly can delay but not prevent legislation. However, the President can dissolve the National Assembly and call for a new election after consulting with the Prime Minister. Only one dissolution may occur within a year.

Like the Philippines, France has a judiciary independent from the executive and legislative branches.—Inquirer Research

The basic principles that the French Republic must respect are found in the 1789 Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen

La Défense, just outside Paris, is the largest business district in Europe.

Jean-Marc Ayrault: tackling homeland challenges in tough times

FRENCH Prime Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault's visit to the Philippines is a historic first official visit by a top French leader since Manila and Paris established diplomatic ties 60 years ago.

Ayrault was appointed by Prime Minister Manuel Valls on May 15. Pierre-Rene Lemas, Secretary General of the Elysee, announced his appointment on the steps of the Elysee Palace.

Prior to his appointment, Ayrault was mayor of Nantes, a position he held since 1989. He also served as mayor of Saint-Herblain from 1977 to 1989.

He was Loire-Atlantique's departmental councillor from 1976 to 1982, and regional assembly deputy from 1986 to 1988. Later on, he became deputy of the third constituency of Loire-Atlantique.

In 1997, Ayrault became president of the Socialist Group in the National Assembly. He has been a member of the Socialist Party's executive committee and executive bureau since 1977 and 1979, respectively.

In 2001, he became president of Nantes Metropole, a community of 24 municipalities with combined population of nearly 590,000.

Ayrault holds a German secondary teaching qualification and a degree in German. He started teaching the language in 1972.

Born on Jan. 25, 1950 in Maulevrier, Ayrault is married to Brigitte Bertaux with two children, Isabelle and Elise.

Ayrault will arrive in Manila with a 120-member delegation, including ministers, Members of Parliament and businessmen, according to the Department of Foreign Affairs.

During his three-day visit, Ayrault is set to meet with President Aquino to discuss bilateral, regional and multilateral issues. He will also go to Cebu for a public transport project that was partly funded by the French government's development arm Agence Francaise de Developpement.—Aimi M. Dagan, Inquirer Research

Sources: official website of France (http://www.france.fr), official website of French Embassy (http://ambafrance-ph.org), official website of Nantes Metropole (www.nantesmetropole.fr), Inquirer archives

FAST FACTS

Full name: **The French Republic**
Capital: **Paris**
Population: **65.6 million (July 2012)**
Area: **543,965 sq km**
Life expectancy: 78 years (men), 85 years (women) (UN)
Exports, France to PH: 606 million Euros (2011)
Imports, France from PH: 530 million Euros (2011)
GNI per capita: US$ 42,420 (World Bank, 2011)
Population of French community in PH: 1,719
Population of Filipino community in France: Est 40,000

Sources: BBC News, CIA.gov, French Chamber of Commerce in the Philippines
Compiled by Stephen Mandaluyong

FRENCH PRIME MINISTER JEAN-MARC AYRAULT

Eurobrands Distributor Inc. the exclusive Philippine distributor of Peugeot welcomes His Excellency, Jean-Marc Ayrault, Prime Minister of France on the occasion of his state visit.

Bonjour!

EDI

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